# SUZUKA

**Kouji Seo**

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY

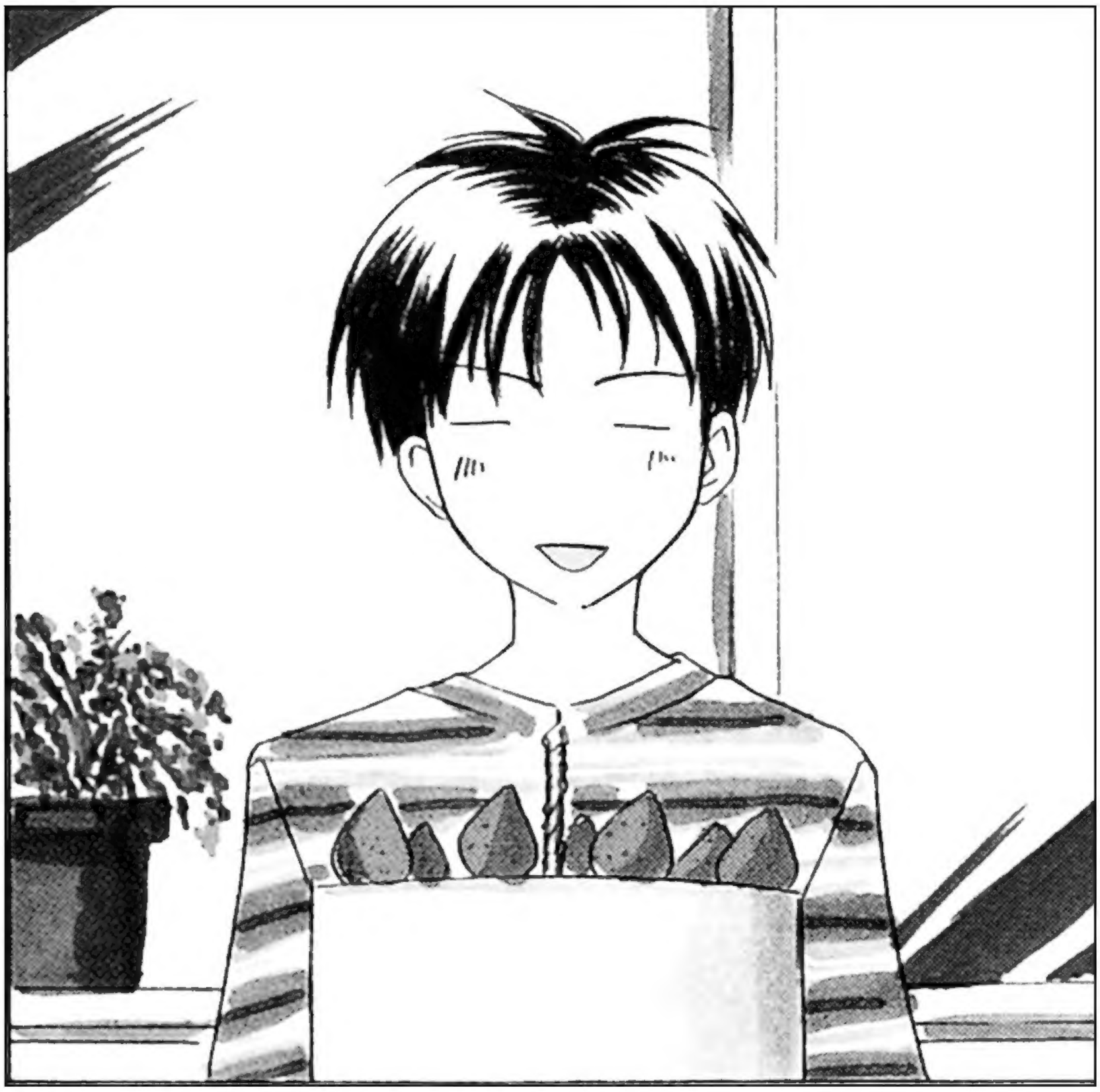
**David Ury**

LETTERED BY

**North Market Street Graphics**

BALLANTINE BOOKS • NEW YORK

# A Note from the Author



*IT LOOKS LIKE* **SUZUKA** *IS GOING TO MAKE IT TO ITS ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY, AND IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU LOYAL READERS. TO CELEBRATE THE OCCASION, I BOUGHT A CAKE AND PUT A SINGLE CANDLE IN IT. I HOPE NEXT YEAR I'LL BE ABLE TO CELEBRATE WITH TWO CANDLES.*

5

# SUZUKA

KOUJI SEO

# SUZUKA

5

Kouji Seo

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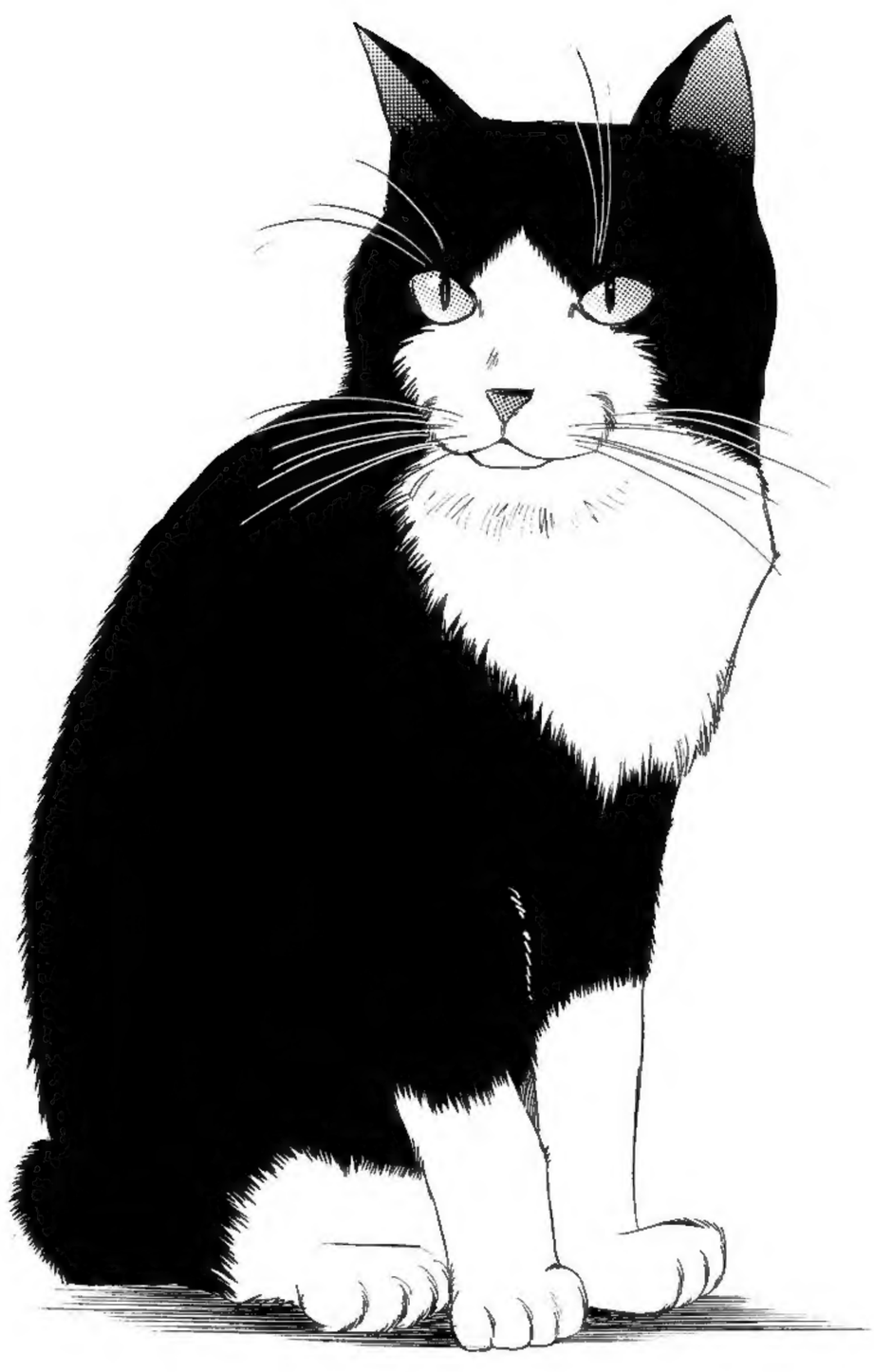


# SUZUKA

# #32 WAR

SOMEONE INVITED ME TO GO TO A WATER PARK.

I TOLD YOU...

I WAS JUST A LITTLE WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

I DON'T CARE...

OF COURSE.

YEAH, WITH EVERY-BODY.

YOU USED TO COME VISIT KAZUKI-KUN'S GRAVE EVERY TIME YOU HAD A BREAK.

W-WELL...

WHAT DO YOU CARE WHERE I GO ON MY BREAK?

AND YOU WANT TO GO TO THE WATER PARK WITH HIM.

OH, I GET IT. YOU MET A GUY, DIDN'T YOU?

WHA—?

AH... WAIT, WAIT—

IS THAT ALL YOU CALLED ABOUT?

I'M HANGING UP!

. . .

CLICK

BEEP

BEEP

OF COURSE NOT! ARE YOU CRAZY?

BZZZT

BZZZT

PING

SHE'S SO OBVIOUS.

FWISH

GRR

FWISH

OH WELL, I'M HAPPY FOR HER.

カチャ

CLICK

WOW, THIS GUY KEPT SUZUKA HOME FOR TWO BREAKS IN A ROW.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

HE MUST REALLY BE SOMETHING.

1-B

I MEAN, YOU'RE NOT EVEN THE ONE WHO INVITED HER.

コツ
STEP

MAYBE SHE JUST FELT LIKE GOING TO THE WATER PARK.

STEP
コツ

WELL... SHE WENT TO THE WATER PARK WITH YOU AND A BUNCH OF OTHER PEOPLE, RIGHT?

YEAH, YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT.

SHE DID SEEM LIKE SHE WAS HAVING FUN.

WITHOUT ME...

SO WHO KNOWS IF SHE LIKES YOU OR NOT?

DIDN'T SUZUKA-CHAN QUALIFY FOR THE INTER-HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION THE OTHER DAY?

GEEZ, MAN... SOUNDS LIKE YOU HAVEN'T MADE ANY PROGRESS AT ALL.

AND...

SH- SHUT UP.

THAT'S JUST ONE MORE THING THAT'S GONNA PULL YOU TWO FURTHER APART.

THAT'S GOOD.

OH YEAH?

AFTER TALKING TO ASAHINA FOR THE LAST FEW DAYS...

AND...

THE WHOLE TRACK TEAM WILL BE AT THE I.H. COMPETI- TION TO CHEER ON SUZUKA, SO...

IT'S NOT GONNA PULL US FURTHER APART.

I'M PRETTY SURE SHE DOESN'T HATE ME EITHER, AND RIGHT NOW, THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.

I REALIZED THAT SHE MAY NOT BE IN LOVE WITH ME, BUT...

HMM...

.....

AH, YAMATO-KUN.

I DON'T KNOW, DUDE... I STILL THINK STALKING HER LIKE THAT IS PRETTY DESPER-ATE.

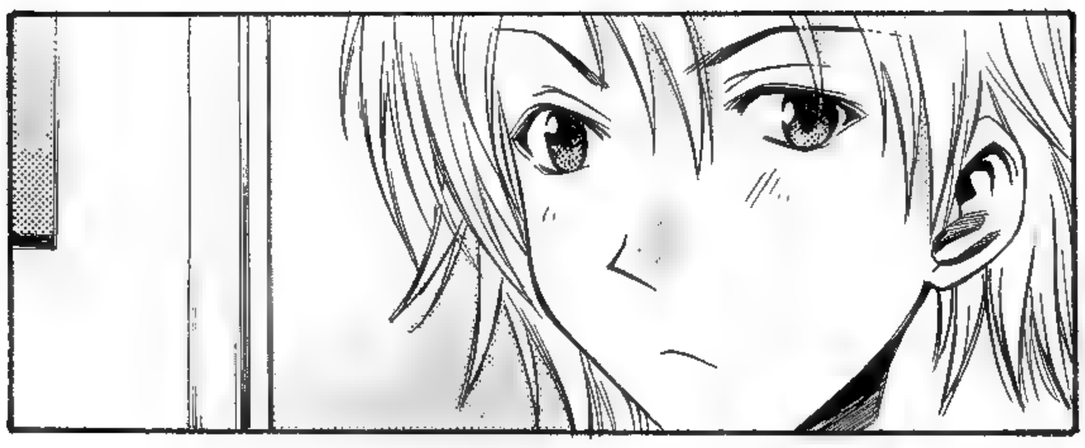
1-C

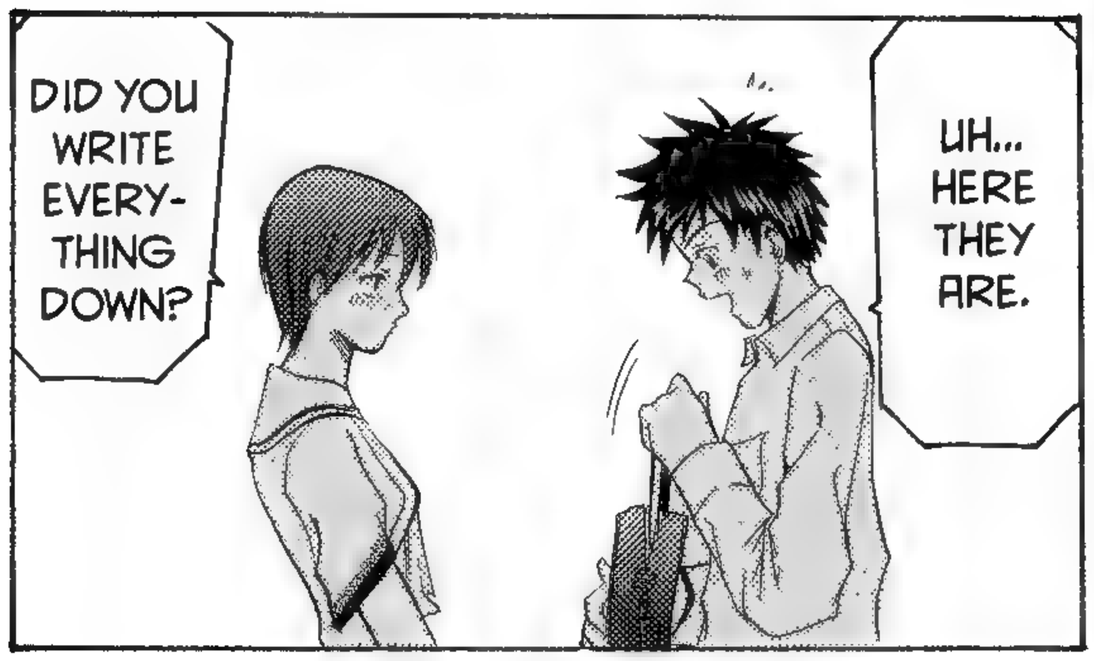
ガラ SLIDE

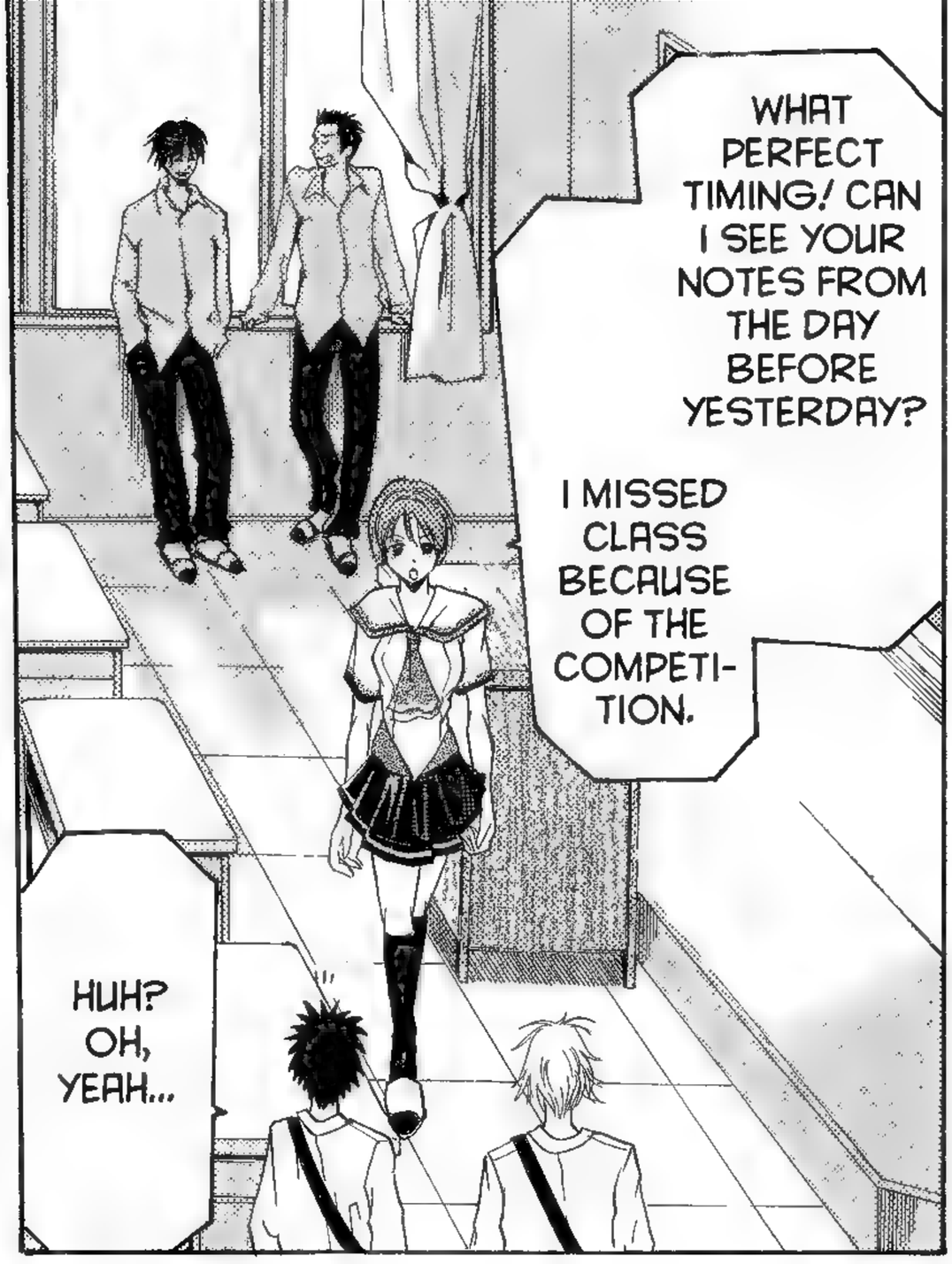
I'M NOT STALKING HER!

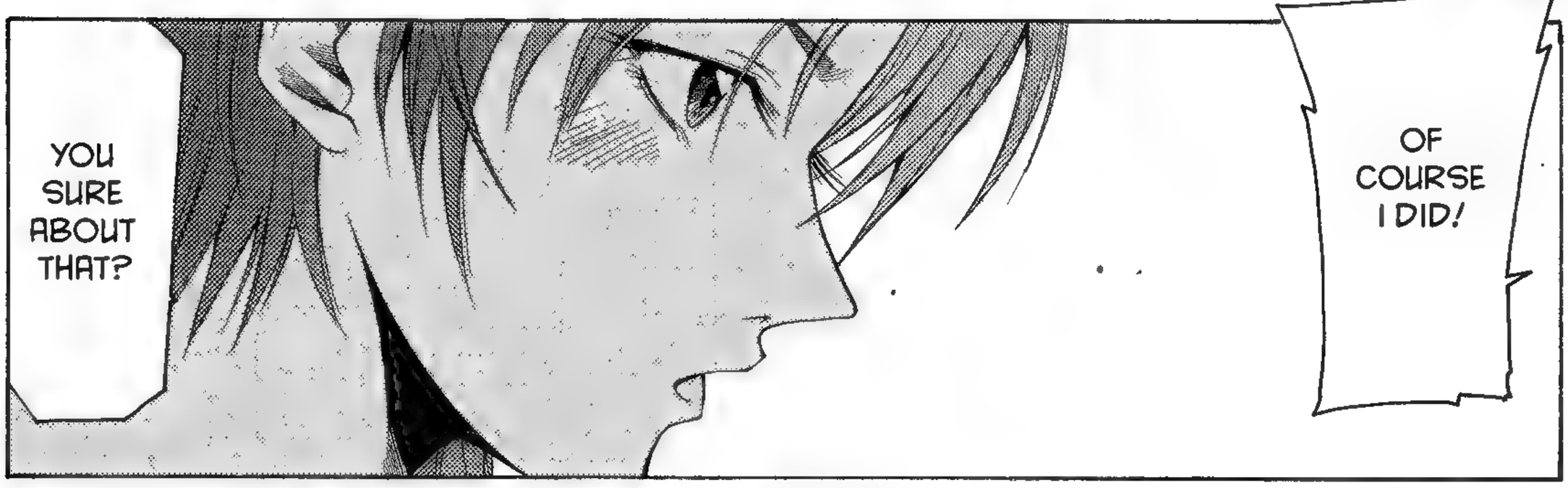
ガラ SLIDE

月曜日




DID YOU WRITE EVERY-THING DOWN?
UH... HERE THEY ARE.


WHAT PERFECT TIMING! CAN I SEE YOUR NOTES FROM THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY?
I MISSED CLASS BECAUSE OF THE COMPETI-TION.
HUH? OH, YEAH...


YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?
OF COURSE I DID!

WHY IS SHE ASKING AKITSUKI-KUN OF ALL PEOPLE?

SHUDDER
そわ
SHUDDER
そわ

FLIP
パラ
FLIP
パラ

HUH?

SLAM

NEVER MIND.

LOOK!

FWUP

YOU CAN TOO READ IT.

YOUR HAND-WRITING IS SO BAD I CAN'T EVEN READ IT.

I'LL JUST BOR-ROW MIKI'S.

YEAH RIGHT.

HUH? WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN READ THAT CHICKEN SCRATCH!

JUST WHEN I THOUGHT THEY WERE FINALLY START-ING TO GET ALONG...

GUESS I WAS JUST IMAG-INING THINGS.

HEY! WAIT!

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH MY WRITING!

I DON'T KNOW.

YOU CAN READ IT, CAN'T YOU?

TRY SQUINTING YOUR EYES!

IT'S LIKE TRYING TO READ HIERO-GLYPH-ICS.

キーン
DING
コーン
DONG
カーン
DING
CLOP
CLOP
SLAM
HUH?
AH...
ASA-
HINA-
SAN.

YOU MEETING SOMEONE HERE?

HONOKA-CHAN...

WHAT'S UP?

...WE COULD WALK HOME TOGETHER, ASAHINA-SAN.

I-I WAS HOPING...

T-TOGETH-ER?

N-NO...

UM...

?

W-WELL, WE...WE BOTH GO THE SAME WAY, SO...

DO YOU MIND?

NO, I GUESS NOT.

コツ
STEP

YEAH?

UM, ASAHINA-SAN...

UM...HOW SHOULD I PUT THIS?

コツ
STEP

...ARE PRETTY... CLOSE, RIGHT?

YOU AND AKITSUKI-KUN...

NO, WE'RE NOT.

I'M USUALLY JUST YELLING AT HIM.

YEAH, YOU GUYS ARE ALWAYS TALKING AND LAUGHING.

HUH?

DOES IT LOOK THAT WAY?

THEN WHY WERE YOU CHEERING HIM ON AT THE RACE?

REALLY?

HOW COULD YOU EVEN THINK WE'RE CLOSE?

ME AND HIM? COME ON!

THEY ALWAYS STRETCH TOGETHER, AND...

THE TWO OF THEM DISAPPEARED ON THE WAY BACK FROM THE WATER PARK.

I MEAN, IT'S ALMOST AS IF THEY'RE...

?

?

WHAT'S WRONG?

THEN ...

YOU DON'T MIND?

MIND WHAT?

HUH?

IF I...

...TELL AKITSUKI-KUN THAT I'M IN LOVE WITH HIM!

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I...

WHAT?

WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS?

. . . . . .

I'M IN LOVE WITH AKITSUKI-KUN, AND...

BECAUSE AFTER SEEING YOU TWO TOGETHER, I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU LIKED AKITSUKI-KUN.

SO I...

YOU MET A GUY, DIDN'T YOU?

OH, I GET IT...

I HAVE BEEN SINCE BEFORE YOU EVEN MET HIM, ASAHINA-SAN!

I...

. . . . . .

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU ACTUALLY THOUGHT I LIKED YAMATO-KUN!

……!

!

ミャ

ッ!

STEP

O-OH NO...

HE OVER-HEARD!

WHOOSH

A"

"

YA-MATO-KUN...

.....

HUH?

IS SOME-THING WRONG WITH HONOKA-CHAN?

WH-WHAT I SAID JUST NOW WAS...

I— LISTEN...

DON'T WORRY. I KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE ME...

I KNOW. FORGET IT.

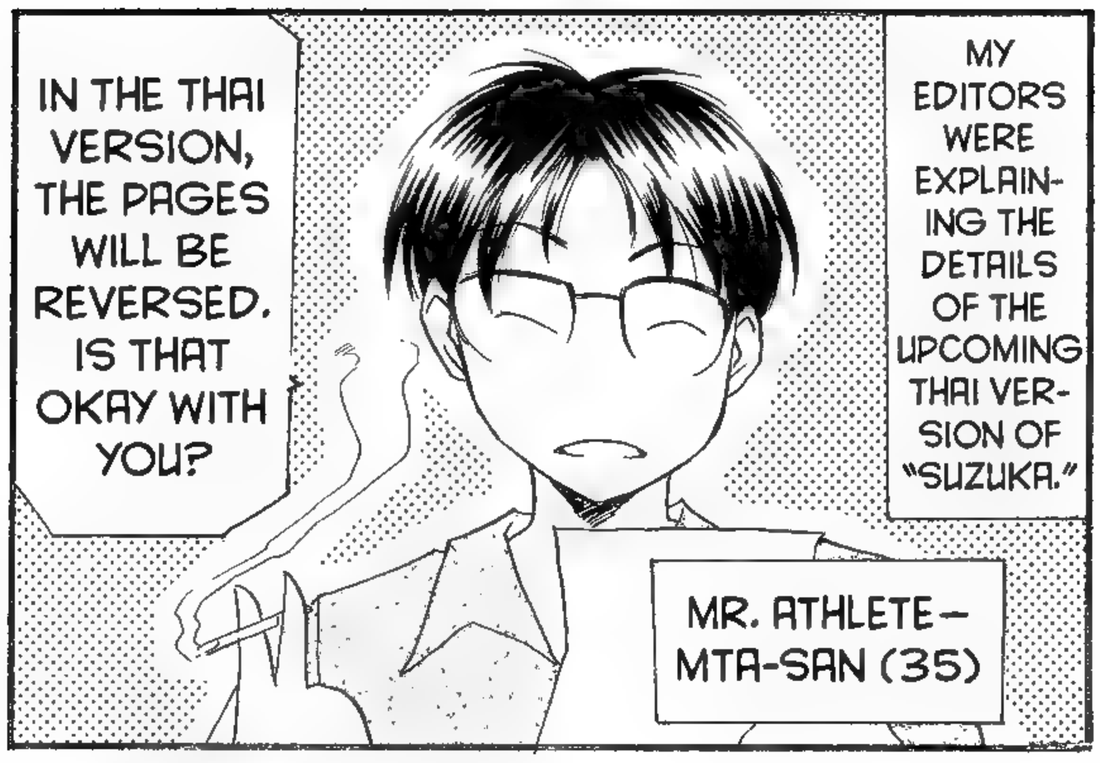
...ASAHINA.

YOU'D BETTER HURRY HOME, OR YOU'LL MISS DINNER!

UH...

UM...

HYUUUU


IN THE THAI VERSION, THE PAGES WILL BE REVERSED. IS THAT OKAY WITH YOU?
MY EDITORS WERE EXPLAIN-ING THE DETAILS OF THE UPCOMING THAI VER-SION OF "SUZUKA."
MR. ATHLETE— MTA-SAN (35)

## SUZUKA FOUR-PANEL THEATER NUMBER SEVENTEEN [I DON'T REALLY MIND, BUT...]

KYAA キャー

KYAA キャー

ASAHIYU BATHS

IT FEELS SO GOOD.

ﾘﾗｯｸｽ RELAX

SPLASH

ﾘﾗｯｸｽ RELAX

SPLASH

QUIT ACTING LIKE A LITTLE KID. IF YOU'RE THAT HOT, WHY DON'T YOU GO TO A REAL POOL?

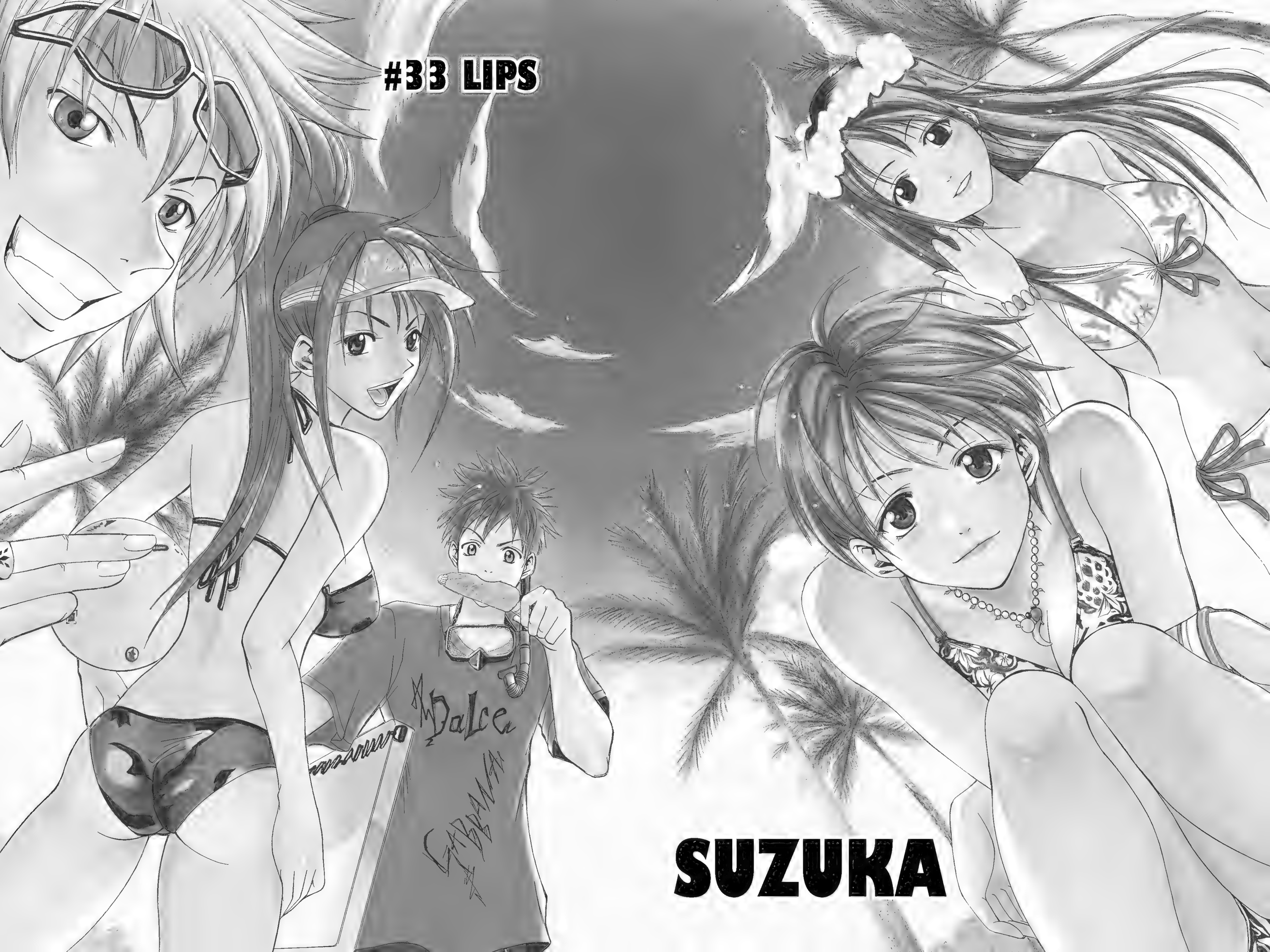
AHH, SUMMER'S FINALLY HERE!

AWWW, ARE YOU JEALOUS OF MY HOT BODY?

OH YEAH? WHY DON'T YOU PUT ON A FREAKING BATHING SUIT?

SPLASH

# #33 LIPS



ゴオオオ

OUCH!

SQUEEZE

SQUEEZE

LISTEN TO ME WHEN I'M TALKING TO YOU!

I'LL WORK EXTRA HARD.

UH-HUH.

OKAY.

THWACKA

WORKING EXTRA HARD ISN'T ENOUGH. YOU'VE GOTTA MAKE IT INTO THE I.H. COMPETITION. SHOW SOME SPIRIT.

THWACKA

I'M RETIRING AFTER THIS COMPETITION.

NUGGIE

NUGGIE

SO I NEED YOU TO WORK EXTRA HARD.

HEY, AKITSUKI! WAIT UP!

IF I SIT WITH HIM ANY LONGER, THEY'LL CARRY ME AWAY IN A STRETCHER.

AS SOON AS WE GET THERE, I'M PUTTING YOU ON A SPECIAL REGIMEN...

UH, I'M GONNA GO BUY A SODA.

NO.

YOINK

AH, ASA-HINA.

I'M GO-ING TO GET A SODA. WANT ANY-THING TO DRINK?

NO OFFENSE, BUT...

WELL... ARE YOU HUNGRY?

I COULD STOP BY THE SNACK BAR.

SORRY.

S-SURE ...

SHE'S BEEN ACTING REALLY COLD EVER SINCE THAT DAY.

COULD YOU JUST LEAVE ME ALONE?

I'M TRY-ING TO CONCEN-TRATE.

BUT I DIDN'T EVEN DO ANYTHING.

CLOP

CLOP

SHOCK
ビクッ

WHAT'S WRONG? WHY DO YOU KEEP STARING AT YAMATO?

I-I'M NOT STAR-ING.

AKIT-SUKI-KUN...

I JUST WANT TO SUPPORT THE TEAM AT THE I.H. COMPETI-TION.

NEXT STOP: NAGOYA

WHY ARE YOU EVEN HERE, HATTORI-KUN? YOU'RE NOT ON THE TRACK TEAM.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

OH...

ANYBODY CAN COME ALONG AS LONG AS THEY GET PERMISSION FROM THE SCHOOL.

IF YOU LIKE YAMATO, THEN WHY DON'T YOU JUST TELL HIM?

SHUT UP.

YOU'RE START-ING TO ANNOY ME.

KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN.

I FIGURED I'D BE BORED DURING SUMMER BREAK ANYWAY, SO...

IT'S NONE OF MY BUSI-NESS, BUT...

WHILE YOU'RE SITTING ON YOUR HANDS, SOME OTHER GIRL MIGHT SNATCH HIM UP, YOU KNOW?

LAST TIME I TOLD HIM HOW I FELT, HE DIDN'T EVEN HEAR ME...

IT WAS HARD ENOUGH JUST SAYING IT ONCE.

SOME OTHER GIRL?

GLANCE ちら…

……

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU ACTUALLY THOUGHT...

...I LIKED YAMATO-KUN!

BUT...

THAT'S WHAT ASAHINA-SAN SAID...

WE'RE STAYING IN THIS DUMP?

WAH, ARE YOU KID-DING ME?

GOD, WHAT A CHEAP-SKATE.

I HAD TO WORK MY ASS OFF JUST TO FIND A PLACE THAT WE COULD AFFORD.

QUIT COM-PLAINING. WE'RE STAYING FOR TEN WHOLE NIGHTS, MAN. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH THAT COSTS?

OKAY, WE'VE GOT FREE TIME UNTIL DINNER.

EVERY-BODY MEET AT THE DINING HALL AT SIX!

YES, SIR.

WANNA GO HANG OUT OVER THERE?

WHAT'S THAT THING AT HIS FEET?

A DIS-CUS.

OKITA INN

YES, SIR!

I WANT EVERY-BODY WHO'S GONNA BE COMPETING TOMORROW TO TAKE IT EASY AND REST UP.

IS THAT CLEAR?

I GUESS ...

THERE'S NO POINT IN ASKING HER TO GO FOR A WALK.

HEY, YAMATO. WANNA GO PICK UP CHICKS?

SHOW ME AROUND HIRO-SHIMA.

SORRY, BUT I DON'T REALLY KNOW MY WAY AROUND DOWN-TOWN.

AKITSUKI -KUN DOESN'T LOOK TOO HAPPY.

HEY, COME ON, YAMA-TO!

LET'S GO FIND SOME CHICKS!

I WON-DER WHAT'S WRONG.

I'M JUST HERE TO CHEER THE TEAM ON, SO...

EVERY-BODY MUST THINK I'M NOT EVEN TAKING THIS SERI-OUSLY.

HUH?

HURRY IT UP, WILL YA?

I'LL DEFINITELY QUALIFY NEXT YEAR.

OH WELL ...

...!

IT'S... WHAT'S HIS NAME... ARIMA?

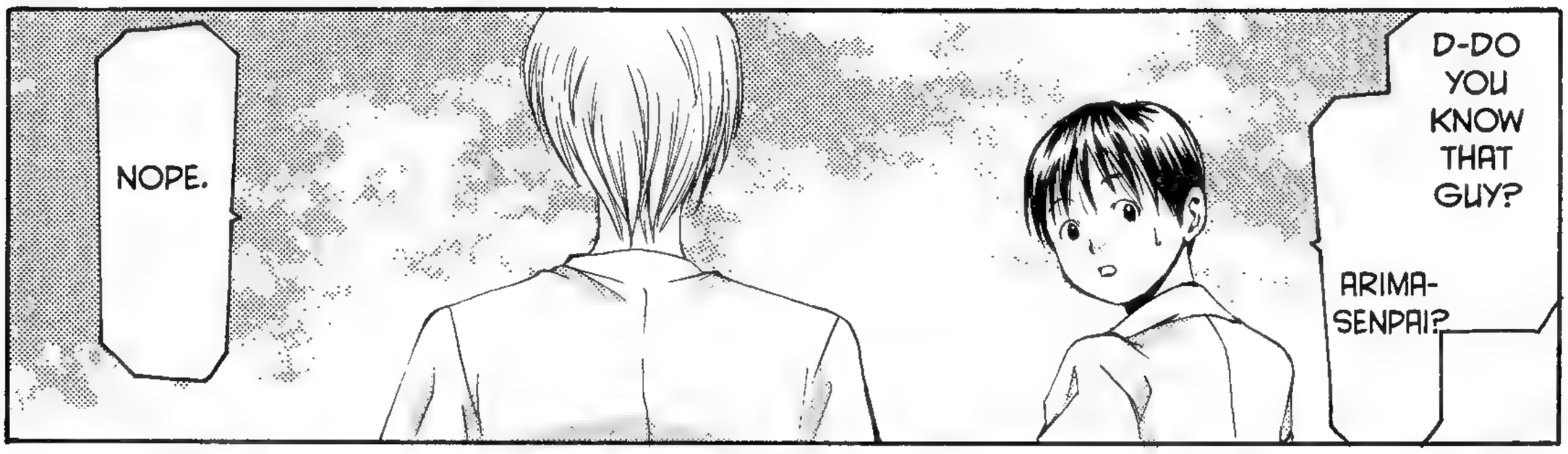
SORRY!

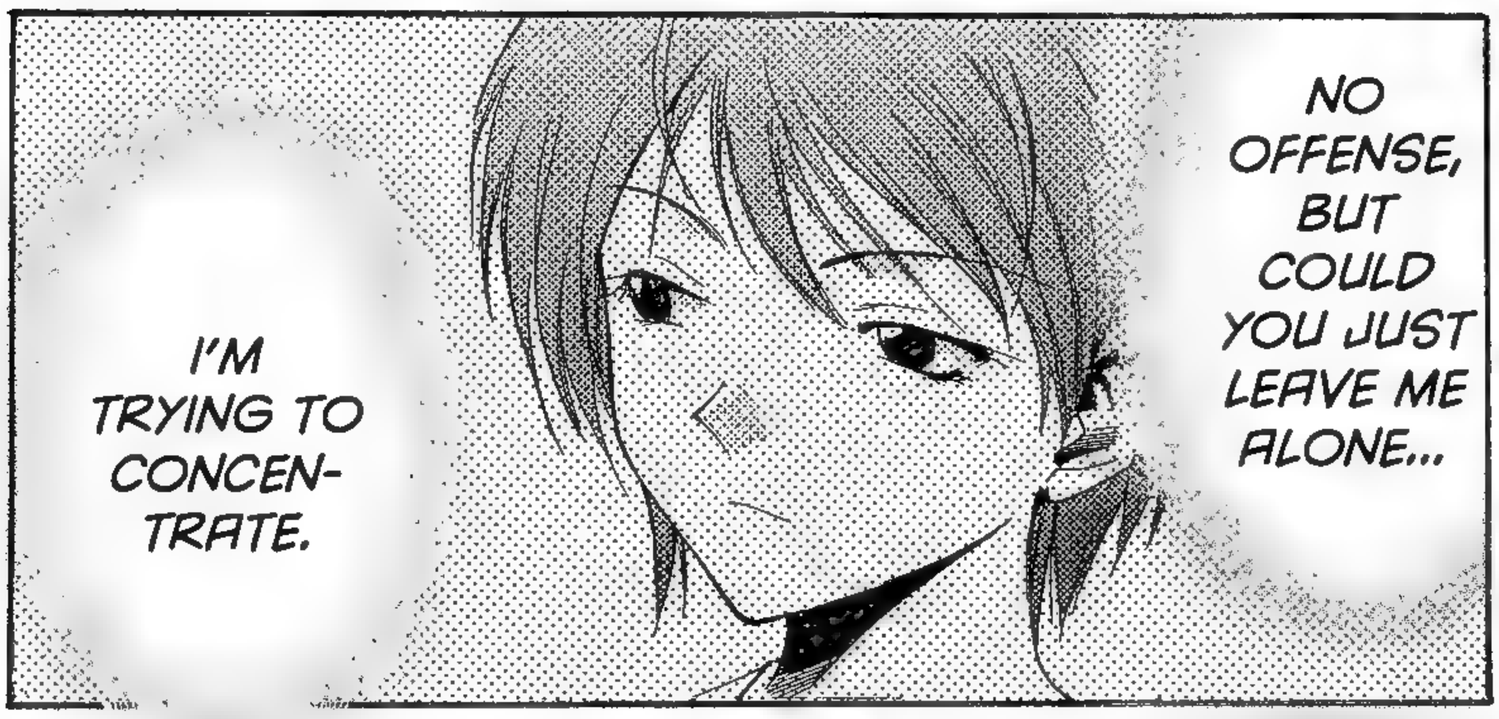
STOP PUT-TERING AROUND LIKE AN OLD MAN. JESUS CHRIST!

H-
HEY...

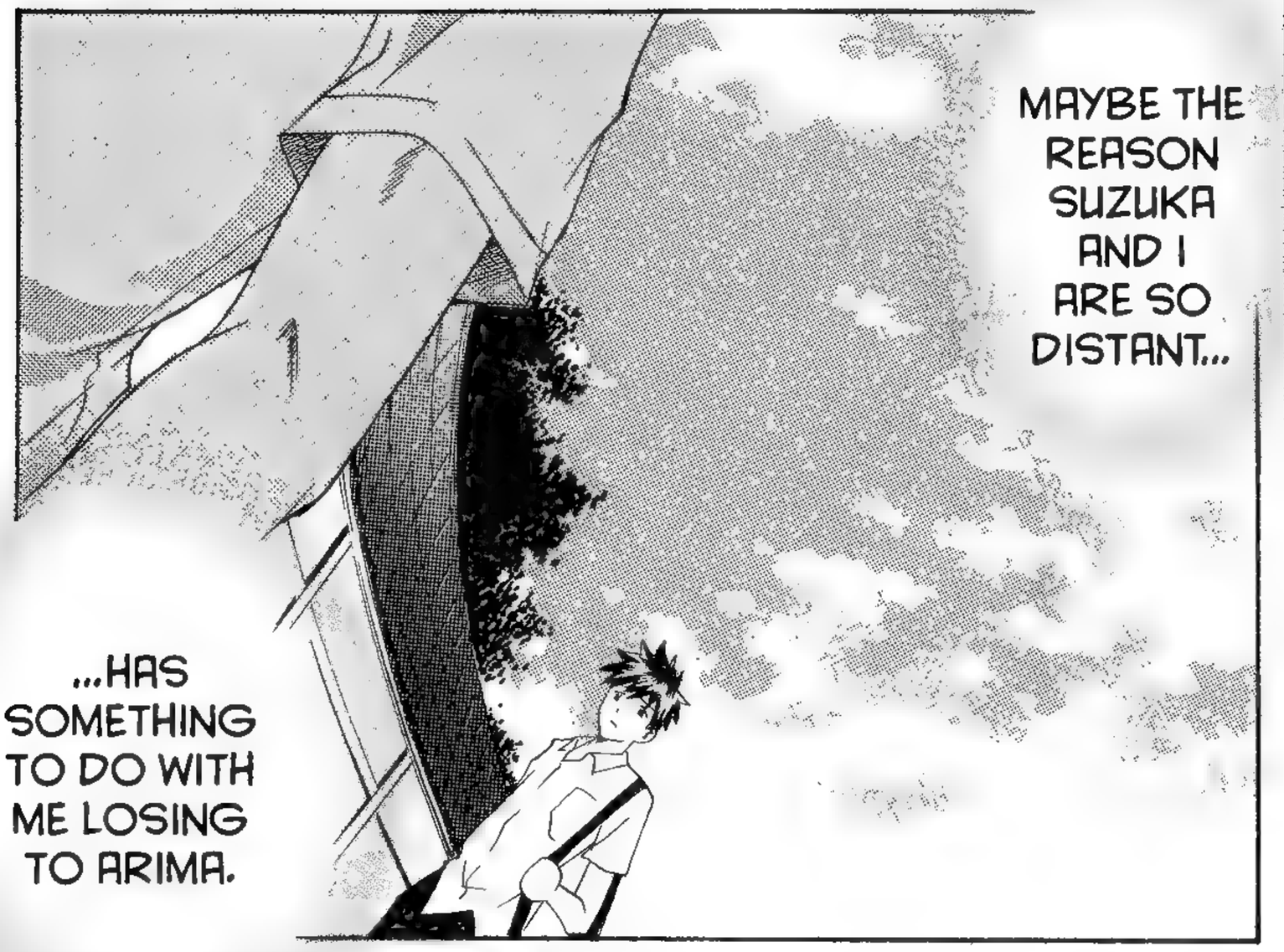
YOU STAYING AROUND HERE, TOO-

AH.


NOPE.
D-DO YOU KNOW THAT GUY?
ARIMA-SENPAI?


I'M TRYING TO CONCEN-TRATE.
NO OFFENSE, BUT COULD YOU JUST LEAVE ME ALONE...

HE MADE IT...
...TO THE I.H. COMPE-TITION...


MAYBE THE REASON SUZUKA AND I ARE SO DISTANT...
...HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH ME LOSING TO ARIMA.

HEY, WANNA SET OFF SOME FIRE-WORKS AFTER DINNER?

YOU DON'T HAVE ANY PLANS, DO YOU?

HA-HASHI-BA.

WHY THE GLOOMY FACE, AKITSUKI?

STEP コ ||/

HEY, WAIT...

NAH, I CAN'T.

AKITSUKI.

THE CAPTAIN WANTS ME TO DO SOME LAPS.

CHATTER

CHATTER

BONG

YAMATO-KUN?

YEAH...

I DON'T KNOW, BUT...HE SEEMED REALLY UPSET ABOUT SOME-THING.

IF YOU'RE NOT GONNA EAT THAT TOMATO, I'LL TAKE IT.

HE'S BEEN REALLY DOWN EVER SINCE WE GOT HERE.

PRES-SURE?

HE'S ONLY BEEN ON THE TEAM FOR A MONTH OR TWO. IT TAKES LONGER THAN THAT TO IMPROVE YOUR TIME.

HE HASN'T REALLY IMPROVED HIS TIME LATELY.

MAYBE HE'S STARTING TO FEEL THE PRES-SURE.

.....

WE ARE NOT...

BECAUSE YOU GUYS ARE SUCH GOOD FRIENDS.

EXACTLY. YOU SHOULD TELL HIM THAT.

HUH? WHY ME?

I'M SURE HE'D FEEL BETTER IF HE HEARD IT FROM YOU.

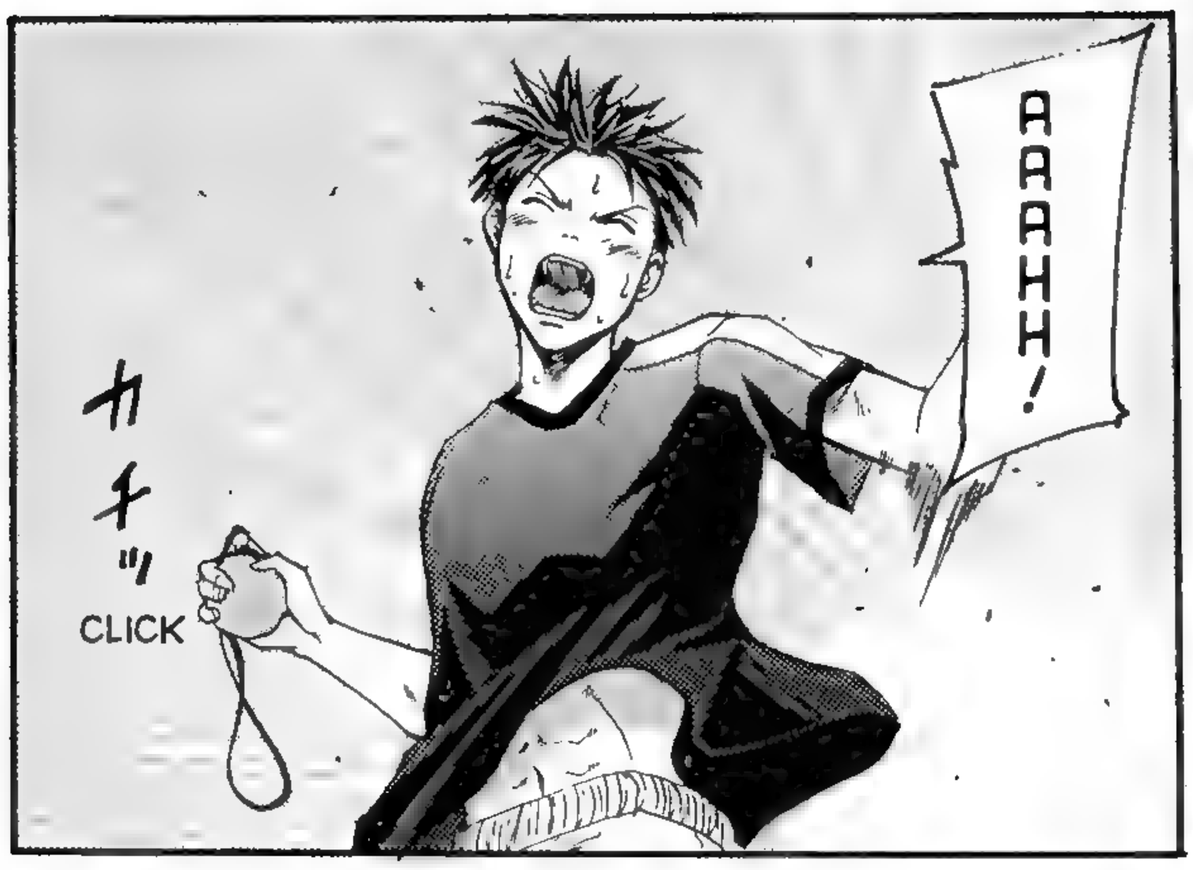
WHATEVER! ANYWAY, HE'S GONNA BE DOING LAPS ALL BY HIMSELF AFTER DINNER...

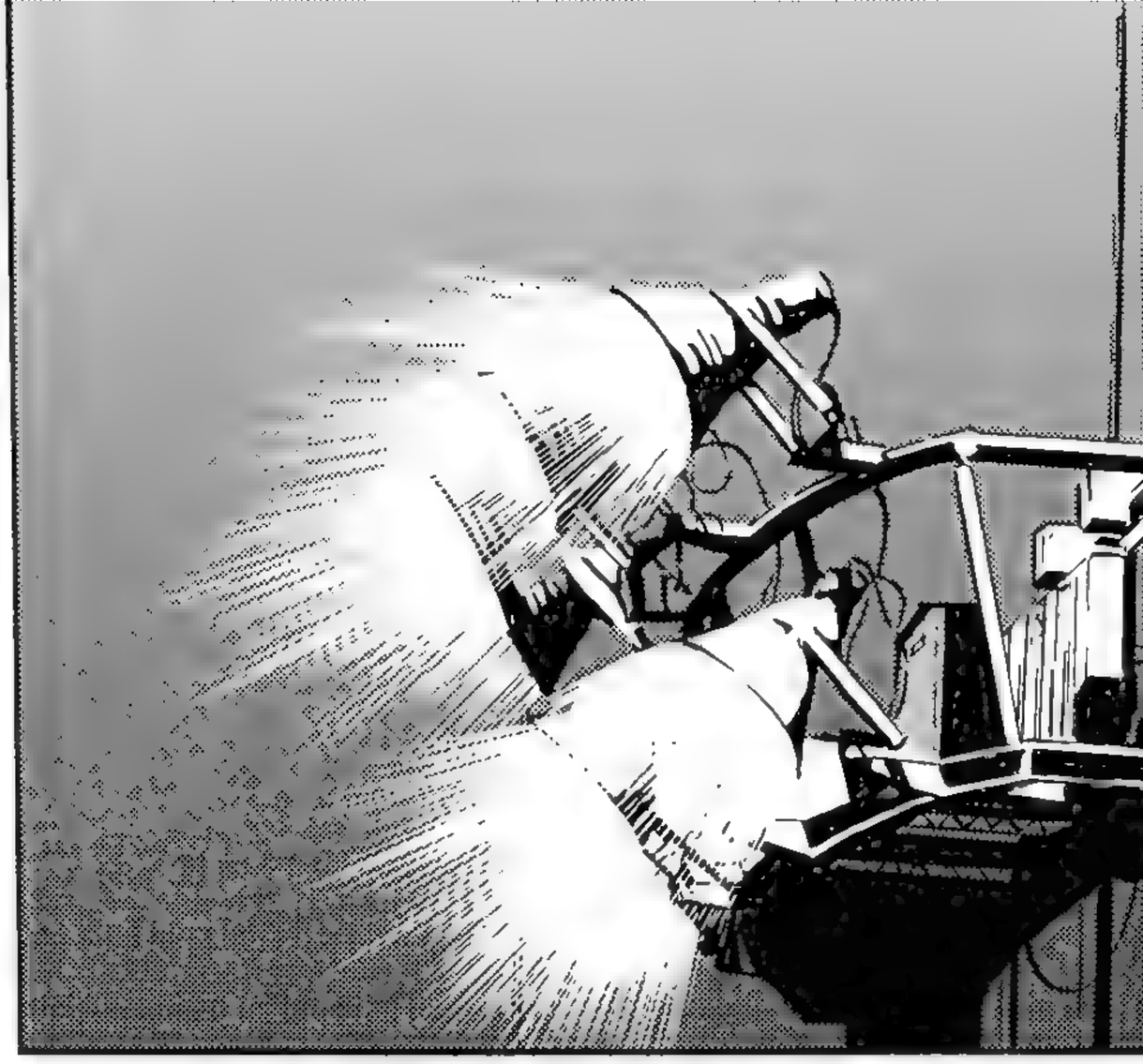
WHY DON'T YOU GO JOIN HIM ON THE TRACK?

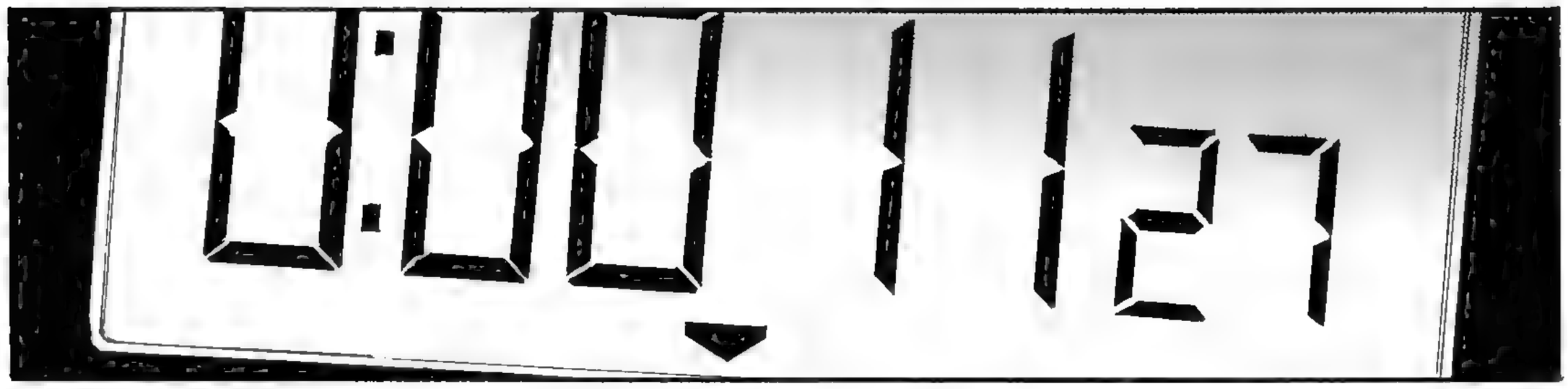
HUH?

SU-ZUKA ...

NO WAY! IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS.


カチ
CLICK
AAAHH!




0:00 1127

トボ
SLUMP
AHHH, TIME FOR A BREAK. I'M BEAT.

SHIT.
ハア
PANT
ハア
PANT
ハア
PANT
I CAN'T BEAT MY TIME...


カ
ッ
STEP

IT'S NOT LIKE TRAINING NOW IS GONNA MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE ANYWAY. I STILL WON'T BE ABLE TO RUN IN TOMORROW'S RACE.

AH, AKITSUKI-KUN.

HONOKA-CHAN?

WHAT'RE YOU DOING OUT HERE?

UM... I WAS JUST WONDER-ING HOW YOU WERE DOING, AKITSUKI-KUN.

HA, HA. I WAS DOING FINE UNTIL A SECOND AGO.

. . . . . .

HE'S BEEN DOWN IN THE DUMPS SINCE WE GOT HERE.

AKITSUKI-KUN SEEMED REALLY UPSET.

.....

OH FINE, I'LL GO.

OKITA INN

ガラッ

CLINK

MIND IF I...

...SIT NEXT TO YOU?

UH... GO A-HEAD.

HE'S DEFI-NITELY...

...UPSET ABOUT SOME-THING.

I HAD SECONDS OF THE MISO SOUP.

I HOPE I DON'T GET FAT.

HUH?

DINNER WAS PRETTY GOOD, WASN'T IT?

I WOULDN'T WORRY TOO MUCH.

HA, HA.

サッ…

HEY...

WHAT'S WRONG, AKITSUKI-KUN?

HYUU

HUH?

. . . . . .

YOU JUST SEEM KIND OF DOWN LATELY.

DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?

. . . . . .

YOUR CONFI-DENCE?

I KIND OF... LOST MY CONFI-DENCE.

I GUESS ...

I DIDN'T EVEN MAKE IT INTO THE I.H., BUT THAT DIDN'T STOP ME FROM TAGGING ALONG LIKE SOME LOSER.

WHEN I FIRST STARTED RUNNING TRACK, EVERYBODY KEPT TALKING ABOUT HOW FAST I WAS, BUT...

I ENDED UP GETTING KILLED AT THE REGIONALS, AND MAKING A TOTAL ASS OF MYSELF.

THE CAPTAIN HAS ALL THESE BIG EXPECTA-TIONS, BUT...

I DON'T KNOW...

.....

D-DON'T SAY THAT...

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I'M DOING HERE.

I MEAN, I JUST DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES.

I JUST THINK THE PEOPLE WHO MADE IT INTO THE I.H. ARE ON A TOTALLY DIFFERENT LEVEL.

YOU HAVE REAL TALENT, AKITSUKI-KUN!

THAT'S NOT TRUE...

HUH?

I THINK YOU'RE REALLY COOL.

I BET YOU'LL TAKE FIRST IN THE I.H. NEXT YEAR.

SOMETIMES I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE HOW FAST YOU ARE.

AND YOU'VE BEEN KEEPING UP WITH YOUR TRAINING JUST LIKE THE CAPTAIN ASKED.

.....

GOOD.

THIS IS ALL I ASK FOR...

.....

NIKU

GRIN

...JUST BEING ABLE TO SHARE A MOMENT ALONE WITH HIM.

THANKS. I FEEL A LITTLE BETTER NOW.

STEP

.....!

AH!

HUH?

WHAT'S WRONG?

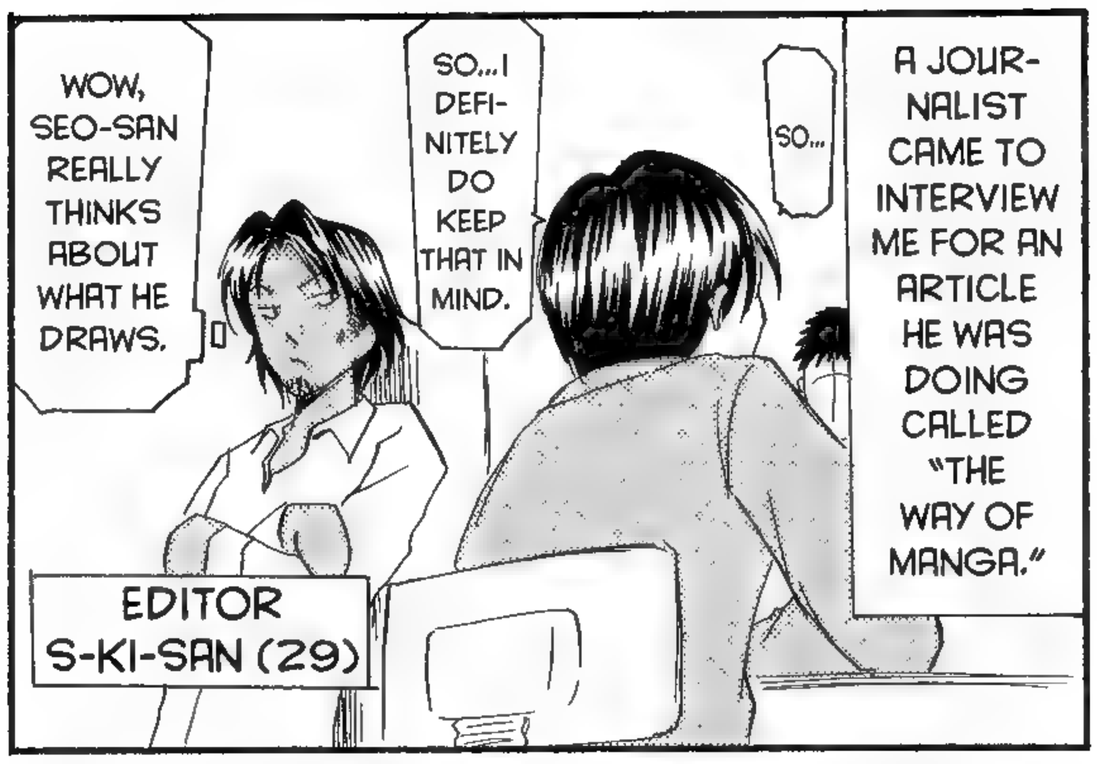
キュッ

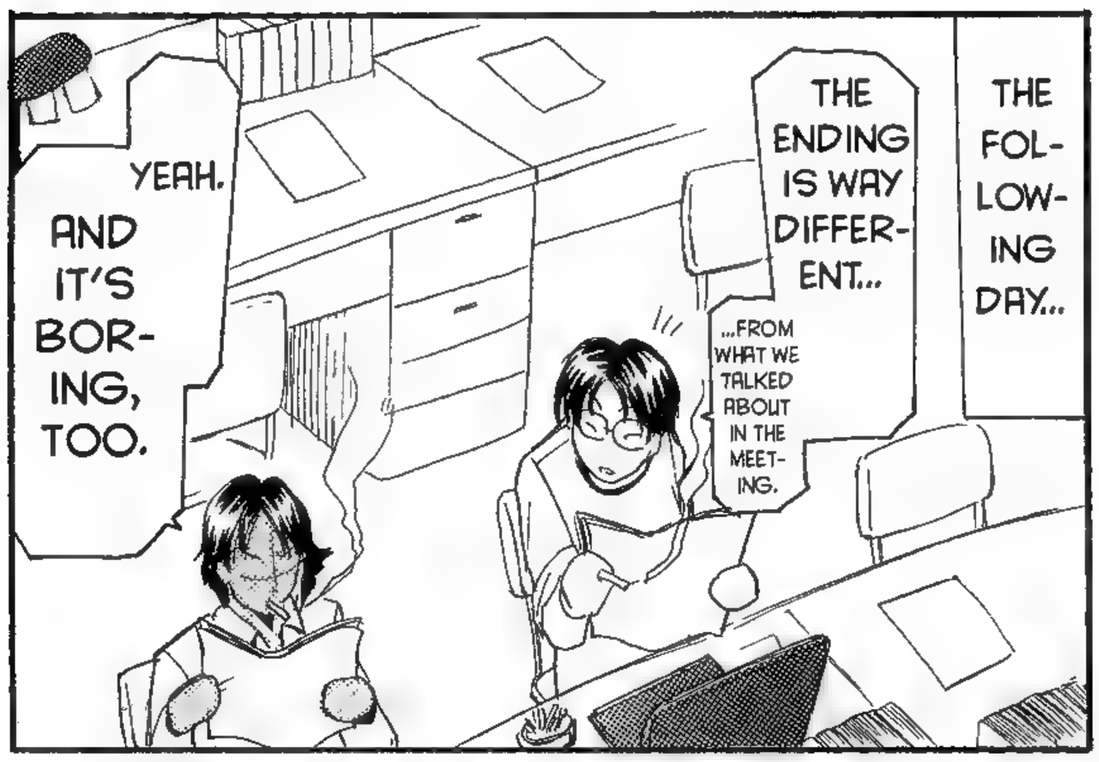
SQUEEZE

NO!

DON'T TURN AROUND.

I WANT YOU ALL TO MYSELF.


WOW, SEO-SAN REALLY THINKS ABOUT WHAT HE DRAWS.
SO...I DEFI-NITELY DO KEEP THAT IN MIND.
SO...
A JOUR-NALIST CAME TO INTERVIEW ME FOR AN ARTICLE HE WAS DOING CALLED "THE WAY OF MANGA."
EDITOR S-KI-SAN (29)




## SUZUKA FOUR-PANEL THEATER NUMBER EIGHTEEN MANGA CRIT

SEO-SAN THINKS REALLY HARD ABOUT HIS STORIES.
HE MUST BE SETTING SOME-THING UP.
BUT THERE'S GOTTA BE SOME DEEP HIDDEN MEANING TO THIS!

FOR A MOMENT...

I HAD NO IDEA WHAT THE HELL WAS HAPPENING.

THE ONLY THING I REMEMBER IS...

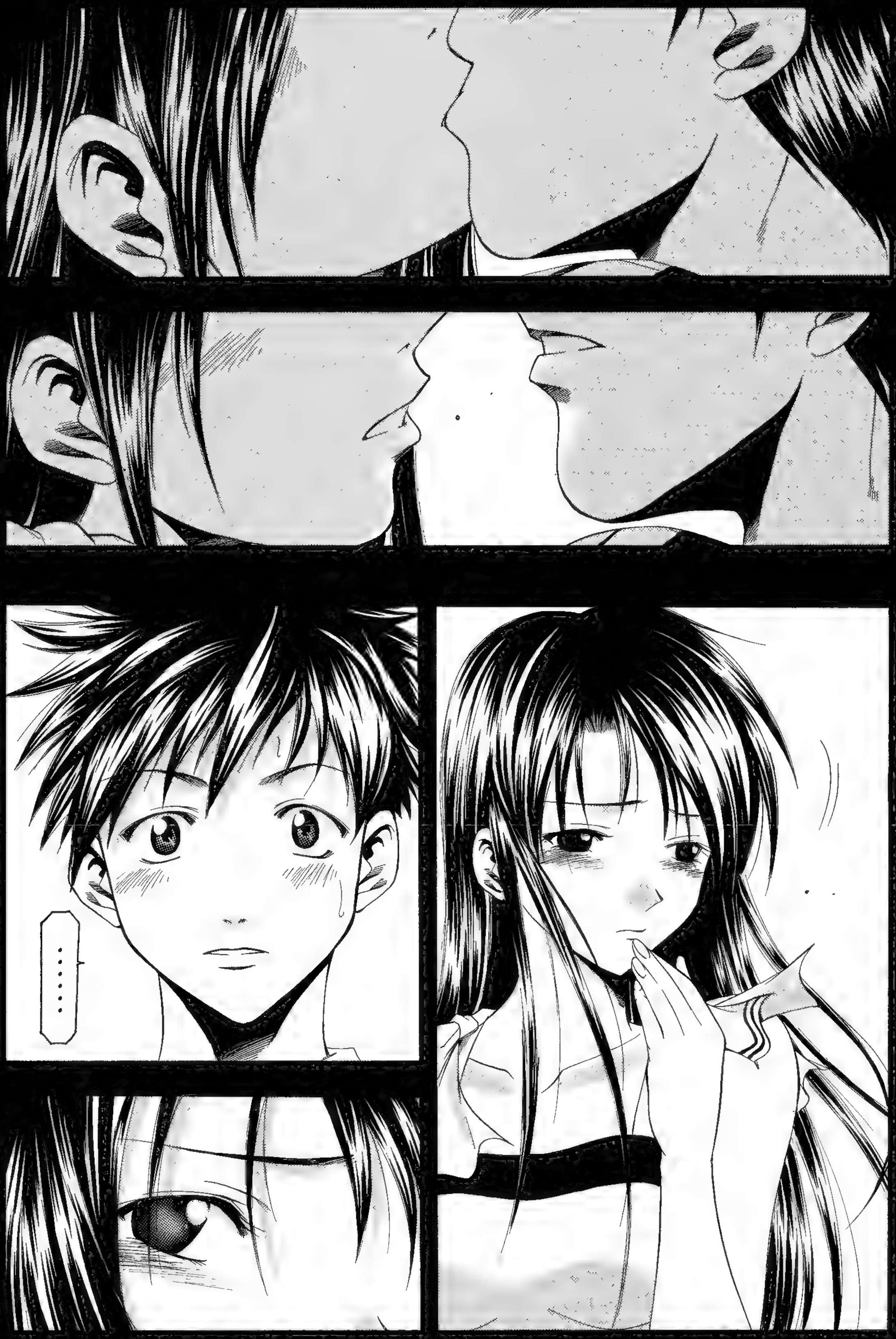
ヒュー

# SUZUKA

...THE FEEL OF HONOKA-CHAN'S...

...SOFT LIPS PRESSED AGAINST MINE.

## #34 TREMORS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I'LL ALWAYS BE...

...RIGHT HERE BY YOUR SIDE, AKITSUKI-KUN.

HUH?

AH...

ガッ

WHOOSH

AH... HONOKA-CHAN.

....!

WHOOSH

HO-
NOKA-
CHA—

TAPPA

TAPPA

TAPPA

...

I DON'T GET IT. IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.

. . . . . .

BUT...

THUMP

ドキ

THUMP

ドキ

ドキ

WHA—

WHY DID SHE DO THAT?

HONOKA-CHAN AND I KI—KI—KI—

IT DEFINITELY HAPPENED.

A-ASAHINA!

QUIT SPACING OUT AND SAY SOME-THING!

WAH!

ビクッ

SHOCK

I SAID, HI!

IT'S NOT LIKE ASAHINA AND I ARE GOING OUT OR ANY-THING.

WHAT AM I SO NER-VOUS ABOUT?

DID YOU FINISH PRAC-TICE?

HUH? OH, I JUST... I MEAN...

PRESSURE? I-I DON'T FEEL ANY PRESSURE!

DON'T LET THE PRESSURE GET TO YOU.

UH, UM...

OKAY.

SWIP

WELL...

THEN NEVER MIND.

OH... YEAH.

YEAH! THE I.H.!?

HUH? TO-MOR-ROW?

IT'S MY FIRST TIME, SO I'M PRETTY NERVOUS.

YOU'D BETTER BE UP THERE ROOTING FOR ME TOMOR-ROW.

YOU CAME OUT HERE JUST TO TELL ME THAT?

SO...

...SINCE WE GOT HERE.

AKITSUKI'S BEEN DOWN IN THE DUMPS...

EH...

WELL, YOU'D BETTER NOT OVER-SLEEP TOMOR-ROW.

GOOD NIGHT.

AH, ASAHINA.

THAT'S RIGHT!

GOT A PROB-LEM WITH THAT?

N-NO...

ALL SHE THINKS ABOUT IS TRACK.

WHAT THE HELL?

BUT...

I'M IN LOVE WITH ASAHINA.

CLOP

CLOP

BLUSH

HOLY SHIT...

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THAT WAS MY FIRST KISS.

HYUU

AND THAT HASN'T CHANGED...

HRRMPH...

NUMBER 3011 COMES IN AT 15 METERS 34 CENTI-METERS.

YEAH!

UNGGHYUAAA!

WOO!

WOW! NICE THROW, CAPTAIN KINUGASA!

AWE-SOME!

WOO

3011

I DON'T GET IT.

WHAT THE HELL DID SHE MEAN BY THAT?

...RIGHT HERE BY YOUR SIDE, AKITSUKI-KUN...

I'LL ALWAYS BE...

HUH?

I'M SUCH AN IDIOT!

WAH! WHAT AM I DOING?

FWICK

I'VE GOTTA CHEER HER ON!

ASAHINA IS PROBABLY TOTALLY NERVOUS!

CAN I...

...SIT BY YOU?

AH...

HONOKA-CHAN...

.....

AH!

SURE, G-GO AHEAD.

TH-THANKS.

THUMP

ドキ

ドキ

THUMP

ドキ

ドキ

THOSE LIPS WERE...

YESTER-DAY...

UH...

UM...

SWIP

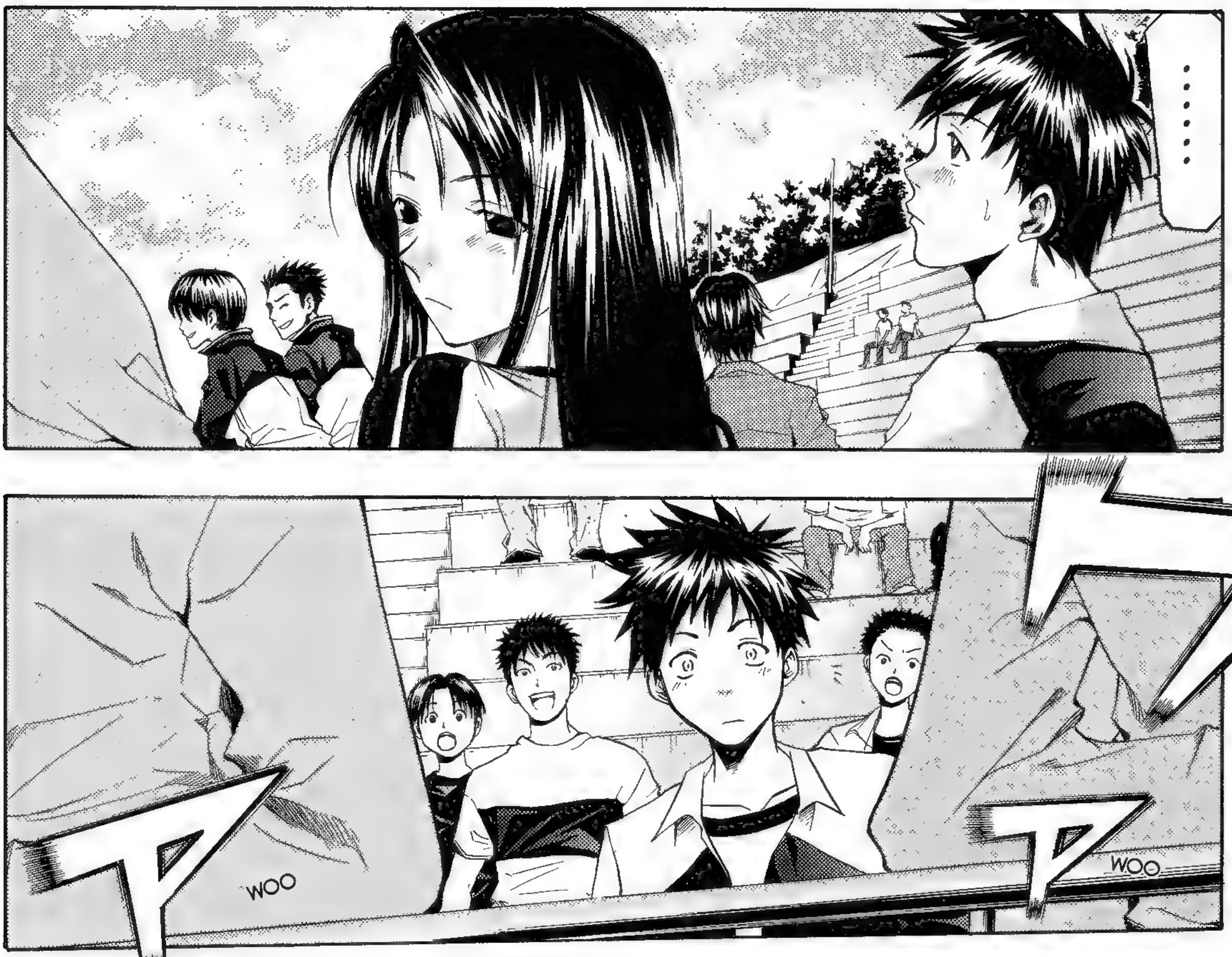
I'M SORRY ABOUT YES-TER-DAY.

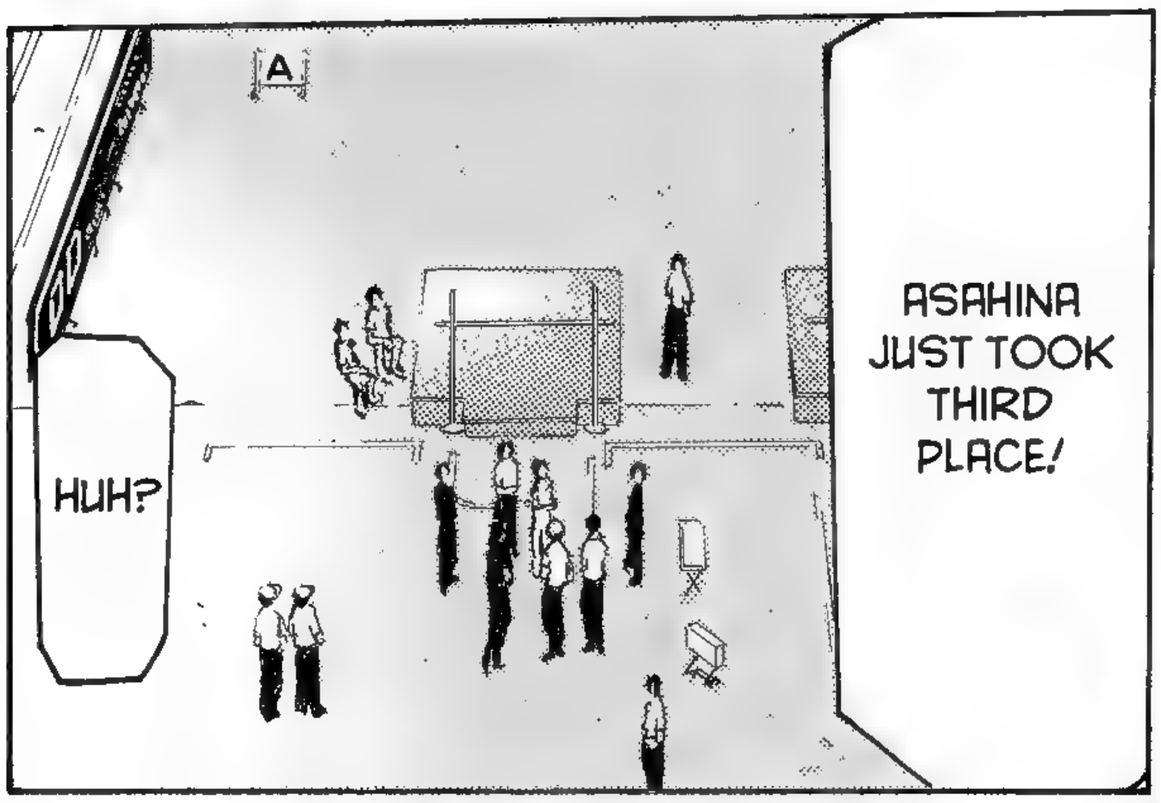
I KNOW IT WAS A LITTLE SUD-DEN.

THUMP

THUMP

UH... NO...


WOO
WOO


A
HUH?
ASAHINA JUST TOOK THIRD PLACE!

WH- WHAT HAP- PENED?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHAT HAP- PENED? WEREN'T YOU WATCH- ING?

ISN'T THAT A RECORD FOR HER?
SHE CLEARED 173 CM...

WH-
WHOA...

LOOK AT ALL THOSE REPORT-ERS...

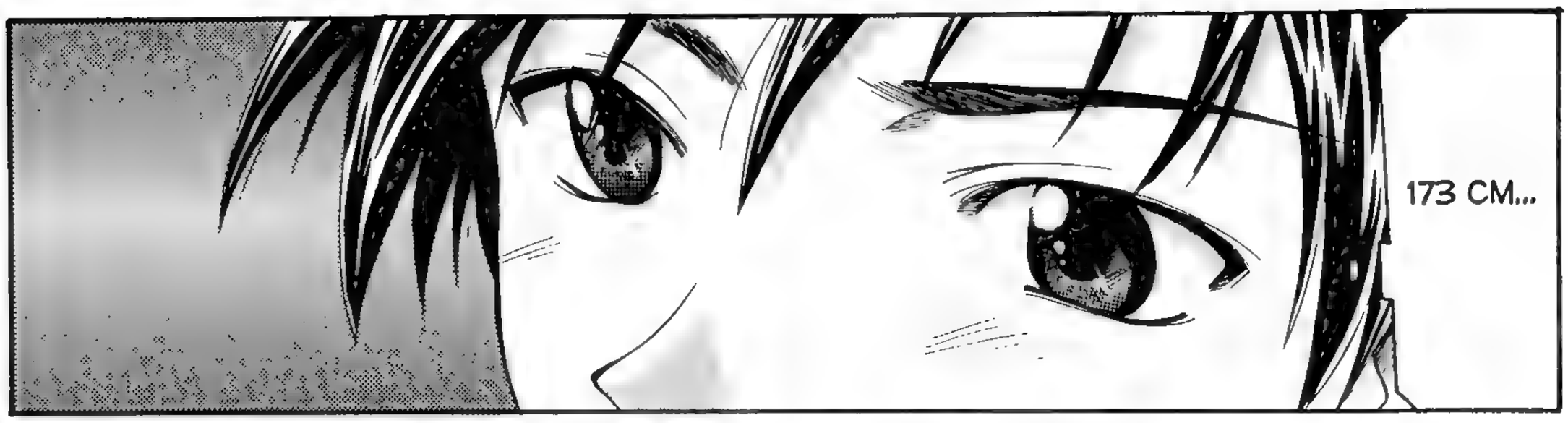
CLICK

CHATTER

CHATTER

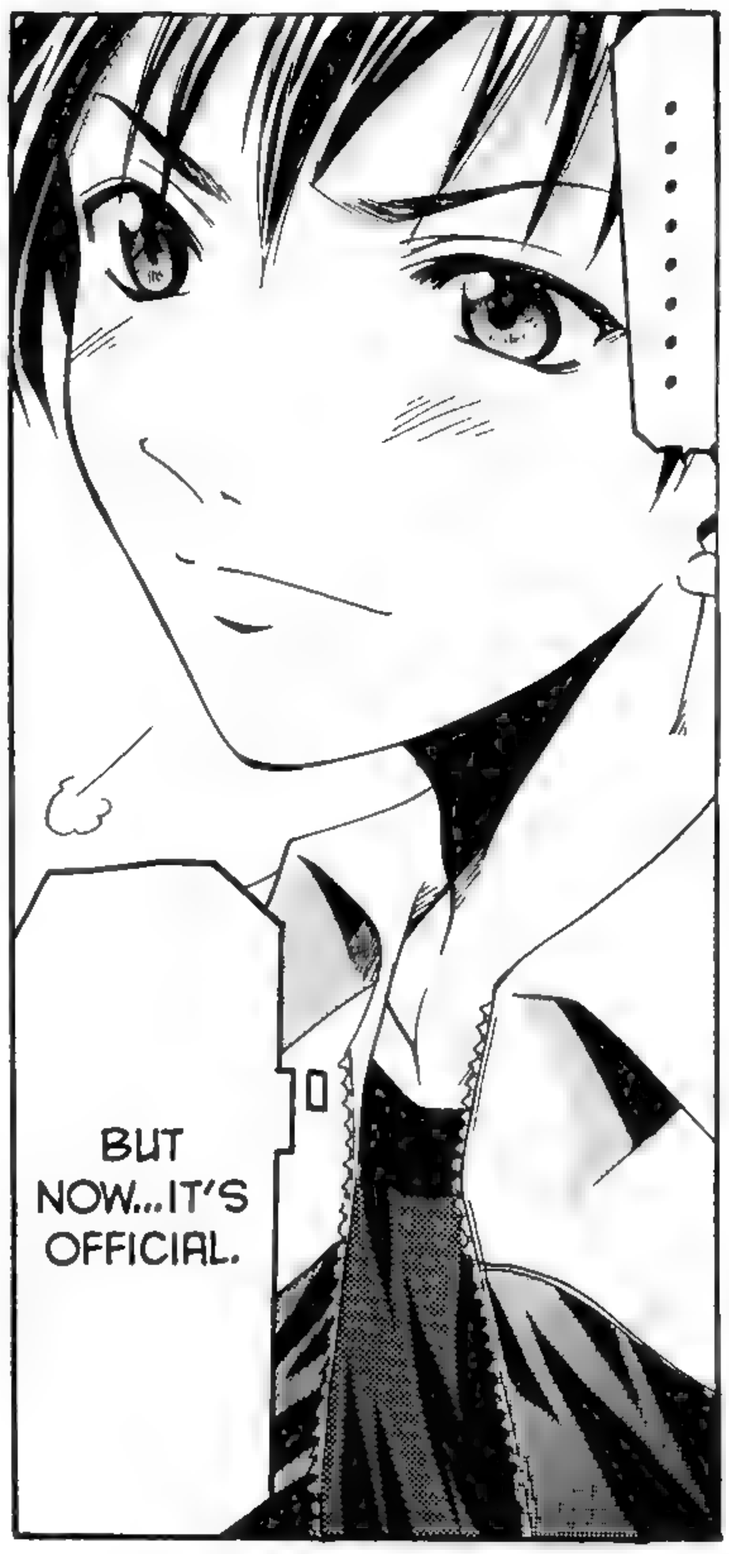
PRESS

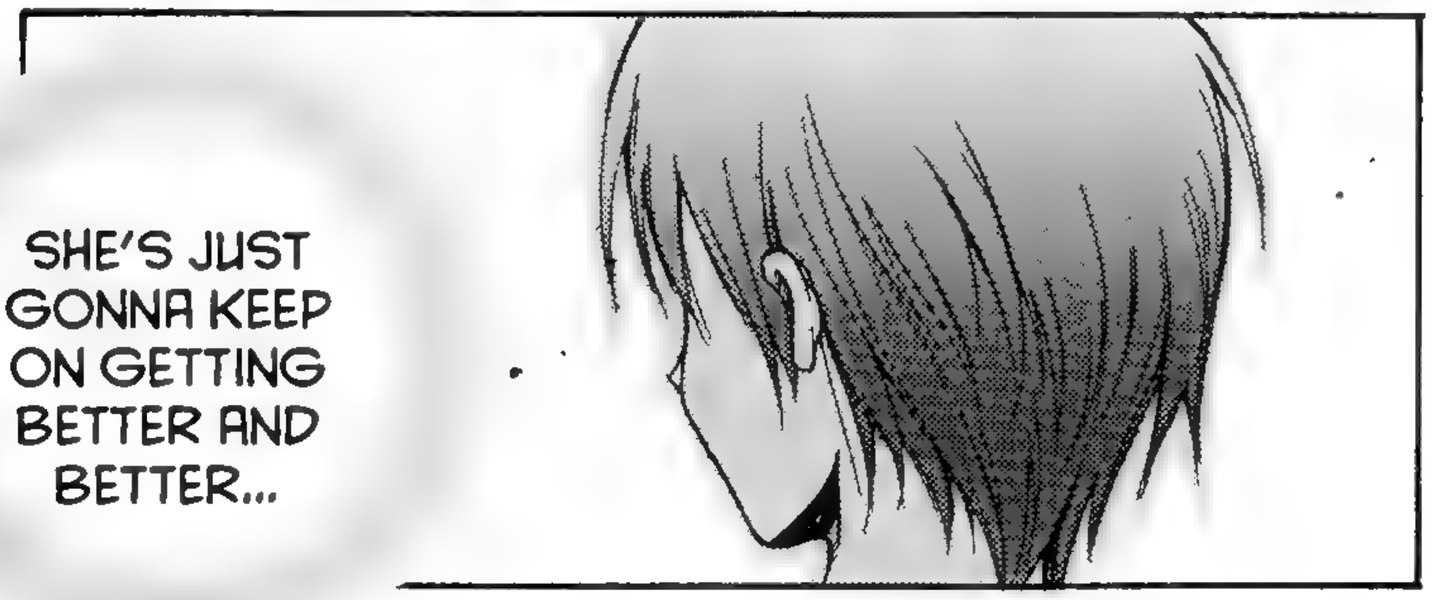
3111


173 CM...

175
THAT'S THE UNOFFICIAL RECORD THAT SHE SET WITH ME...
だったら責任持って
ちゃんと跳べるか
今までに見た
どの表情よりも
可愛いと思った人——
...THAT DAY
どこにカメラ合わせてんの!?
どこって
私のだけど
こんなの今
全然だった
そんな

THOSE REPORTERS JUST CAN'T LEAVE HER ALONE.
ASAHINA LOOKS SO CUTE.
3111


.....
BUT NOW...IT'S OFFICIAL.


SHE'S JUST GONNA KEEP ON GETTING BETTER AND BETTER...

...AND LEAVE ME IN THE DUST.

...RIGHT HERE BY YOUR SIDE, AKITSUKI-KUN.

I'LL ALWAYS BE...

...

HUH?

I GUESS I'LL JUST BE STUCK ON MY OWN...

...FOR-EVER TRYING TO CATCH UP.

AKITSUKI-KUN?

AH...

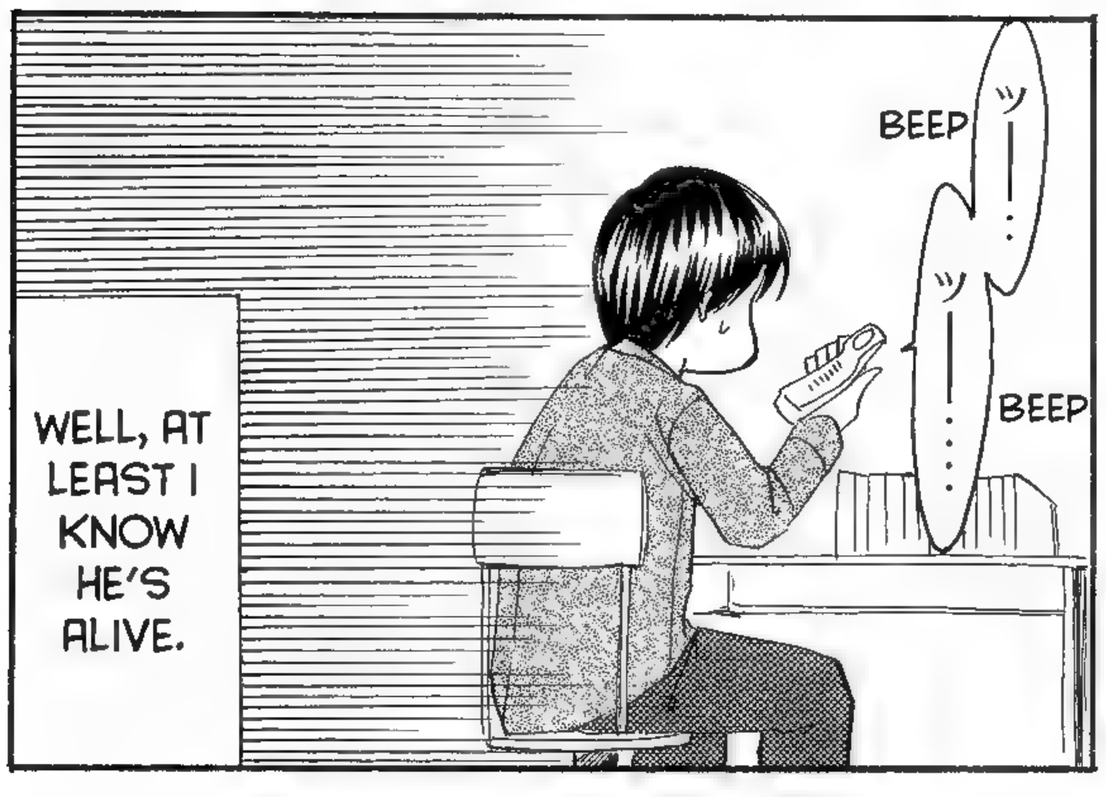
THUMP

THUMP

HEY, WILL YOU RECORD THAT SOCCER GAME FOR ME? THE ONE NAKATA IS PLAYING IN.
SO? HOW'S AUS-TRALIA? I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE IN AN-OTHER COUN-TRY!

## SUZUKA FOUR-PANEL THEATER NUMBER NINETEEN

## IS THAT ALL?



THIS SUCKS. I COULDN'T PICK UP A SINGLE CHICK, AND YAMATO WON'T EVEN TALK TO ME.

WHAT A LAME TRIP.

QUIT SPACING OUT, AND HOLD UP THE BAN-NER.

AHH, WHY THE HELL DO I HAVE TO HELP YOU WITH THIS?

BECAUSE YOU'RE A FRESHMAN, DUH.

カ"
ナ
RUSTLE
カ"
ナ
RUSTLE

# SENIOR FAREWELL PARTY

AND SUZUKA ASAHINA'S 3RD PLACE CELEBRATION

# SUZUKA

# #35 GOALS

HEY, SAKU-RAI.

YEAH?

CLINK

OKAY.

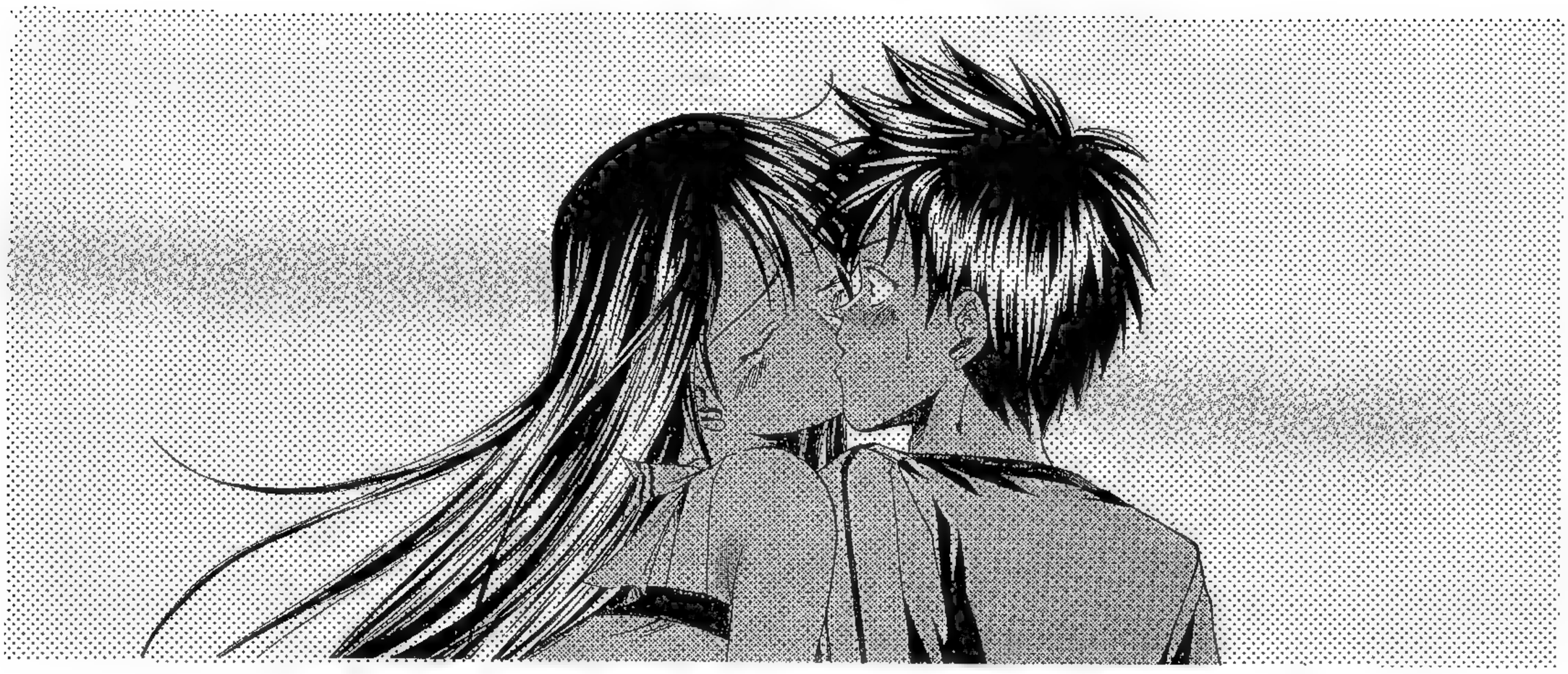
TAPPA

TAPPA

I'VE ALWAYS GOTTEN ALONG PRETTY WELL WITH HER...

AND SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN A GOOD FRIEND, BUT...

HONOKA-CHAN IS SUCH A HARD WORKER.



THOSE LIPS...
THEY SURE WERE SOFT...

.....?
ドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドドDOKIDOKIDOKIDOKI
TAPPA
TAPPA
I-IT'S NOTHING!
LEAVE ME ALONE, AND GET BACK TO WORK!
!?
HEY, WHY IS YOUR FACE ALL RED?
USUALLY, I CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF ASAHINA, BUT NOW...
I CAN'T STOP LOOK-ING AT HER...

AFTER THREE YEARS ON THE TRACK TEAM, IT'S TIME FOR ME AND THE OTHER SENIOR TEAM MEMBERS TO STEP DOWN.

A-HEM

SENIOR FAREWELL PARTY

AND SUZUKA ASAHINA'S 3rd PLACE CELEBRATION

IT'S HONOKA-CHAN...

SHUT UP, YOU'RE NOT EVEN ON THE TEAM.

FWICK

WRAP IT UP, CAPTAIN. I'M STARVING.

WOO

SO I'D LIKE TO MAKE A TOAST TO THE CONTINUED SUCCESS OF AOBA HIGH'S TRACK TEAM, AND TO ASAHINA WHO TOOK THIRD PLACE AT THE I.H.

CHEERS!

CHEERS.

HUH?

WE?

WHAT A JERK. WE COME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE TO SHOW OUR SUPPORT, AND THIS IS WHAT WE GET?

SHORT DISTANCE RUNNER/ SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT KENJI KOBAYASHI-KUN PLACED IN THE TOP 16 IN THE I.H. 200 METER DASH

NO WAY.

HEY, I HEARD THEY HAVE KARA-OKE HERE.

CHATTER

CHATTER

YEAH, RIGHT, YOU IDIOT.

HEY, DON'T WE HAVE ANY BOOZE?

HAVE A DRINK, SUZUKA! YOU'RE THE STAR TODAY.

UH... THANKS.

YOU WERE ON TV LAST NIGHT. DID YOU KNOW THAT?

THEY WERE CALLING YOU THE NEW HEROINE OF THE HIGH JUMP.

A FARE-WELL PARTY AND...

...A CEL-EBRATION FOR SUZUKA ASAHINA'S THIRD-PLACE VICTORY...?

I BET YOU'LL HAVE COLLEGE SCOUTS COMING AFTER YOU SOON.

MAYBE EVEN SPONSORS.

FWISH

WOO
WOO
OKITA
INN

HEY, HASHIBA. DID AKITSUKI LEAVE?

HUH?

HE WAS HERE A SECOND AGO.

HEY, AKITSUKI! COME HERE FOR A SEC!

WHERE'D HE GO?

SORRY, BUT I NEED YOU TO GO FETCH HIM FOR ME, HASHIBA. I'M GONNA GIVE HIM A PIECE OF MY MIND.

.....

OKAY.

HE'S SUCH A PAIN IN THE ASS.

GRRNCH

I'M COUNTING ON HIM TO PULL HIS WEIGHT NEXT YEAR.

SIGH.

WHAT HAVE I DONE?

NOW ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT IS HONOKA-CHAN.

I KEEP TALKING ABOUT HOW I'M IN LOVE WITH ASAHINA, BUT...

WHY CAN'T I STOP THINKING ABOUT HONOKA-CHAN?

IS IT BECAUSE WE HELD HANDS? ...OR BECAUSE WE KISSED?

WHY?

HONOKA-CHAN.

YOU JUST DISAP-PEARED ALL OF A SUDDEN, AKITSUKI-KUN.

I WAS KIND OF WORRIED, SO I CAME OUT LOOKING FOR YOU.

HONOKA-CHAN...

.....

WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

WHAT IS THIS I'M FEELING?

CAN I COME STAND NEXT TO YOU? ARE THERE CARP IN THERE?

YEAH...

I DON'T QUITE KNOW HOW TO DESCRIBE IT, BUT...

YEAH.

I WISH I HAD SOME BREAD CRUMBS.

IT'S DIFFERENT FROM THE FEELING I GET WHEN I'M WITH ASAHINA.

LOOK, LOOK!

SPLASH

SPLASH

AREN'T THEY CUTE?

BUT...

WHEN I'M WITH HONOKA-CHAN...

SPLASH

I JUST FEEL SO RELAXED...

KYAA! IT'S SO COLD.

AH.

FWUMP

C-

CAREFUL, YOU ALMOST FELL.

SORRY...

……

H-HONOKA-CHAN...

……!

FWISH

スッ…

……

AH...

H-HOLD ON!

UH...I MEAN...

...

...

IT'S NOT LIKE...

...WE'RE GOING OUT OR ANY-THING.

HUH?

SOR-RY.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

I'M SORRY...

AT THAT MOMENT HONOKA-CHAN...

YANK

HUH?

WHERE THE HELL DID AKITSUKI GO?

ガラン

CLOP

MAYBE HE'S IN THE GAR-DEN.

CLOP

HEY, AKIT-SUKI!

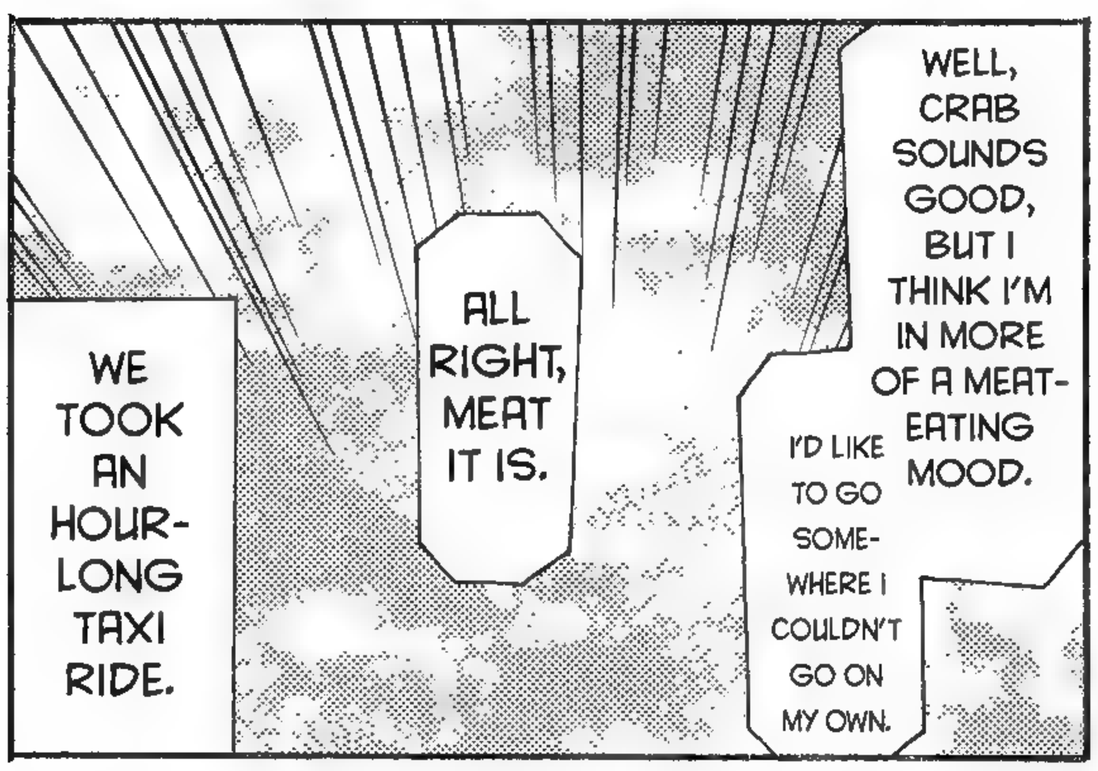
THE CAPTAIN'S CALLING YOU...

HUH?

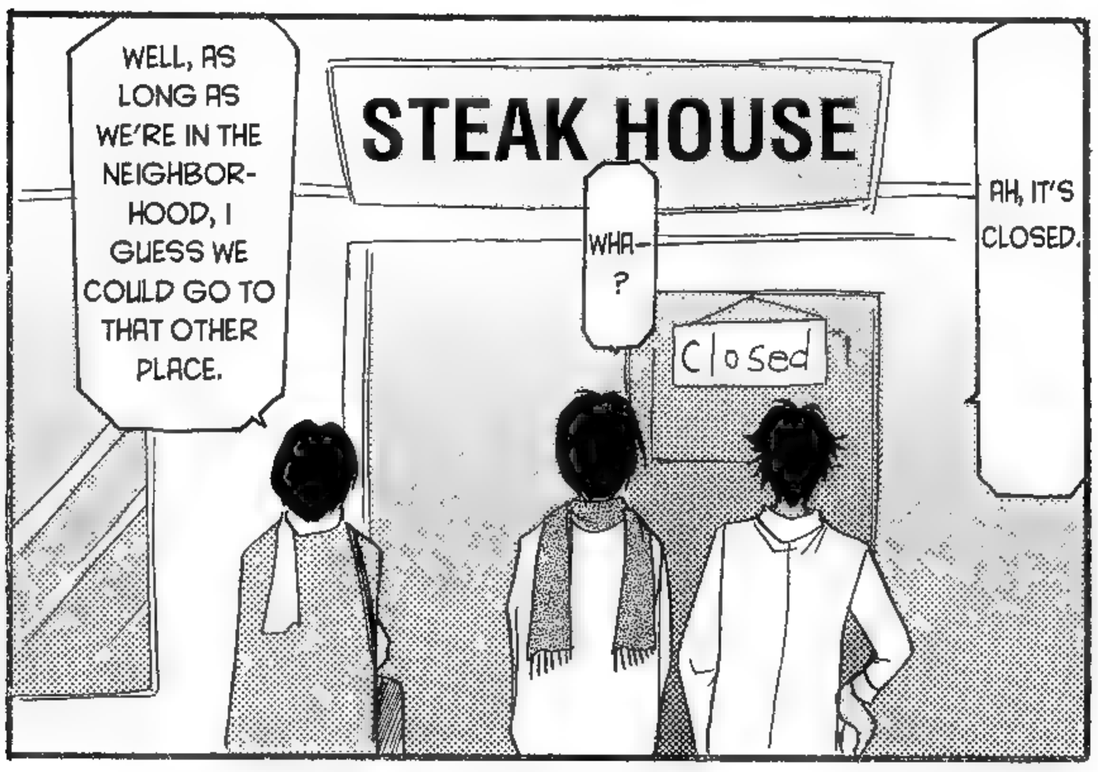
WHA-?

NO WAY-

WHAT THE HELL IS HE DOING?


WELL, CRAB SOUNDS GOOD, BUT I THINK I'M IN MORE OF A MEAT-EATING MOOD.
I'D LIKE TO GO SOME-WHERE I COULDN'T GO ON MY OWN.
ALL RIGHT, MEAT IT IS.
WE TOOK AN HOUR-LONG TAXI RIDE.

## SUZUKA FOUR-PANEL THEATER NUMBER TWENTY
## CHOICES



A RAMEN SHOP
THEIR STIR-FRIED MEAT AND VEGGIES ARE REALLY GOOD.
THE MISO STIR-FRY IS GOOD, TOO.
SO MUCH FOR GOING SOME-WHERE I COULDN'T USUALLY AFFORD.

UP TILL NOW, I'D NEVER EVEN THOUGHT OF HER LIKE THIS.

I ALWAYS SAW HER AS JUST A FRIEND.

...NOW WHEN I SEE HER STANDING BEFORE ME...

BUT...

# SUZUKA

## #36 EXPOSED

IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE...

I MEAN...

SHOULD WE BE DOING THIS?

HUH?

WELL...

WHY DON'T WE START GOING OUT?

N-NO, NOT AT ALL.

UH... WAIT...DID THAT SOUND REALLY LAME? SORRY.

DROP

I'M SO HAPPY.

EH?

HONOKA-CHAN...

カサ

WAH...

WHAT THE HECK DID I JUST WALK IN ON?

SO HAPPY...

HE FINALLY UNDERSTOOD...

HUH? OH... RIGHT.
WOW, AN OUTSIDE BATH!

DON'T BLAME IT ON ME.

WHAT? I ONLY MISSED BECAUSE YOU WERE SPAC-ING OUT, MAKI-CHAN.

DON'T FIGHT, YOU GUYS.

THAT'S RIGHT.

SHOULD I TELL SUZUKA?

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU MISSED AGAIN, ARI.

I'M EX-HAUST-ED.

THEY CAME TO CHEER ON THEIR BAS-KETBALL TEAM AT THE I.H.

THEY'RE CHEER-LEADERS FROM SAINT SOMETHING OR OTHER HIGH SCHOOL.

WOW... THOSE GIRLS HAVE SUCH NICE BODIES.

WHOA, COOL! AN OUTSIDE BATH!

HMM...

THERE'S SOME-THING I SHOULD-

YAMATO-KUN?

WHAT'RE YOU SEVEN?

SPLASH

SPLASH

THIS IS AWESOME, YASUNOBU! IT'S HUGE!

SHUT UP.

HEY, KEEP IT DOWN!

SPLASH

WOO!

SOUNDS LIKE HE'S DOING BETTER.

HUH?

S- SORRY...

OW! MY BUTT HIT BOTTOM!

.....

CAN'T HE JUST TAKE A NICE, QUIET BATH THOUGH?

GEEZ...

FWAH

……

カポ

AHH! GOD DAMN IT!

SPLOOSH

MAYBE I SHOULDN'T TELL HER AFTER ALL.

THEN AGAIN...

YAWN

OKITA INN

HUH?

IT'S PRETTY QUIET THIS MORN-ING, EH?

WE DON'T HAVE PRACTICE TILL THE AFTERNOON.

YEAH...THAT'S CAUSE ALL THE SENIORS ARE GOING BACK TO TOKYO.

OH YEAH?

BESIDES, I CAN'T GO HOME WITHOUT PICKING UP AT LEAST ONE CHICK.

WHAT'RE YOU STILL DOING HERE ANYWAY?

THE I.H. IS OVER.

JUST KILL-ING TIME.

HEY, YAMATO-KUN.

WANNA COME SHOPPING WITH ME? ...IF YOU'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING...

I WANNA BUY SOME SOUVE-NIRS.

NO?

YOU SHOULD GO, DUDE. YOU'VE GOT NOTHING BETTER TO DO.

HUH?

.....

WHAT?

SORRY, BUT...

I'M KIND OF TIRED.

FINE! FORGET IT. I'LL JUST GO WITH MIKI!

AH... SUZUKA-CHAN.

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM? JUST COME FOR A LITTLE WHILE.

NO.

NOTH-
ING...

FORGET
IT.

WHAT
DO
YOU
MEAN?

WH-
WHAT'S
WITH YOU,
DUDE?

FWIP

CLOP CLOP

TAPPA

TAPPA

HUH?

N-NO, NOTHING IN PAR-TICULAR.

SOME-THING...

...GOOD HAPPEN TO YOU OR WHAT?

WHAT-EVER...

YOU HAVEN'T HEARD OF SQUISHY CAKES?

THEY'RE A HIROSHIMA SPECIALTY.

SQUISHY CAKES

I MEAN, I CAN SEE WHY YOU BOUGHT THOSE MAPLE LEAF BEAN CAKES, BUT...

WHAT THE HELL ARE SQUISHY CAKES?

LET'S SEE, NEXT I WANT—

CLOP

CLOP

I DON'T THINK I CAN KEEP UP WITH YOU.

GOD...

AH.

HANG ON, SUZUKA! YOU ALREADY BOUGHT WAY TOO MUCH.

DON'T YOU THINK THIS SHIRT...

...WOULD LOOK GOOD ON YAMATO-KUN?

AND YAMATO-KUN HAS PRETTY WIDE SHOUL-DERS.

OH, BUT IT'S A ME-DIUM.

HUH?

SALE

. . . . . .

OH... I'M NOT GONNA BUY IT OR ANY-THING.

HE WOULDN'T EVEN COME SHOPPING WITH ME.

HEY, SUZUKA...

SALE

SALE

SALE

...WHAT I'M SAYING.

THAT'S NOT...

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

WHAT IS IT?

. . . . . ?

AKITSUKI...

...IS GOING OUT WITH SAKURAI-SAN.

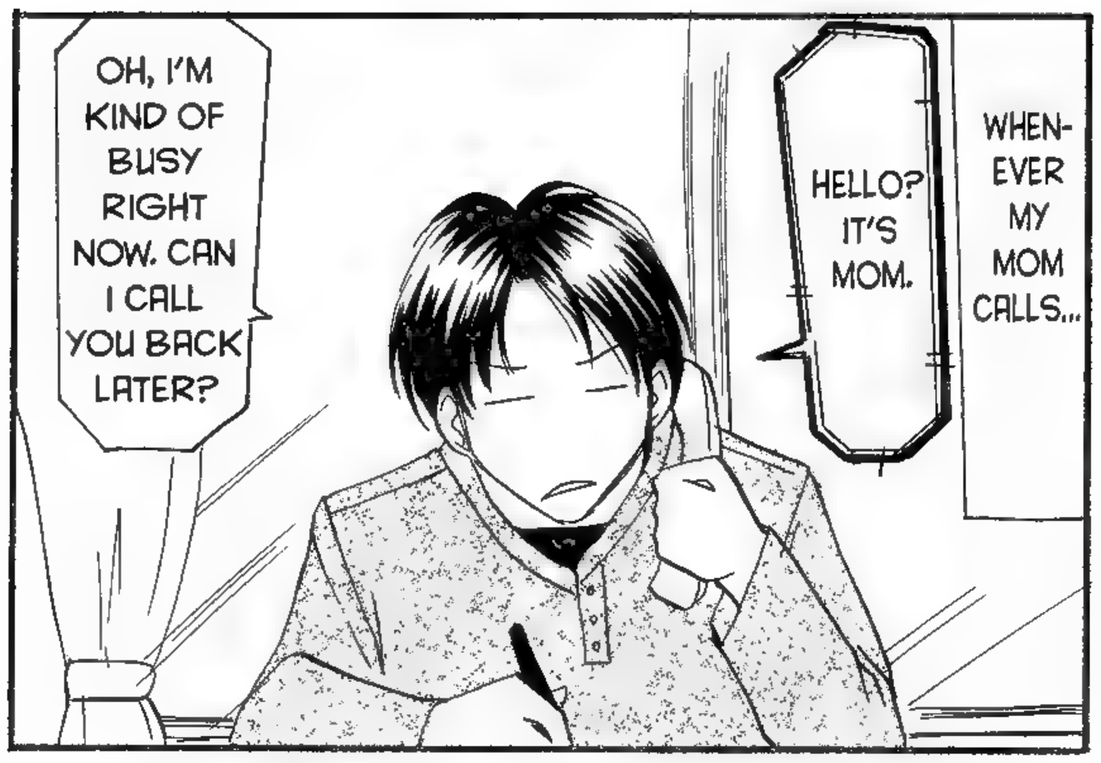
...EH?

...I SAW IT HAPPEN.

I OVER-HEARD THEM YESTER-DAY...

HYUU

...OH.



## SUZUKA
## FOUR-PANEL THEATER
## NUMBER TWENTY-ONE
## MOTHER

TAPPA
TAPPA
TAPPA
TAPPA
HUH?
WHY THE HELL IS HE STILL HERE, MIYAMOTO-SENPAI?
LET'S PICK UP THE PACE!
HE SAID HE'S GONNA STICK AROUND AND CONCEN-TRATE ON TRAINING THE KOHAI UNTIL GRADUATION DAY.
LUCKY FOR US.
QUIT SLACK-ING!
Y-YES, SIR!
LUCKY MY ASS.
SIGH.
ONE MORE LAP!

# #37 CELEBRATION

SUZUKA

HOW ABOUT A POCARI, SAKURAI?

NICE WORK!

ALL RIGHT, THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY!

AHH, THANKS.

A

FWICK

NICE WORK, AKITSUKI-KUN.

HERE'S YOUR TOW-EL?

キョロ

YOINK

キョロ

YOINK

HUH?

RUSTLE

DEAR YAMATO-KUN,

MEET ME IN THE GARDEN AFTER DINNER.

FROM HONOKA

HUH? NOTHING.

RUSTLE

WHAT'S WRONG, AKITSUKI?

SAKURAI-SAN!

YES!

ALL RIGHT, LET'S DO TEN SETS OF DASHES.

YES, SIR!

.....

THAT WAS GOOD.

HEY, MIYAMOTO-SENPAI. THERE'S NONE LEFT FOR ME.

WHAT? THERE SHOULD BE ENOUGH FOR EVERY-ONE.

ガチャ CLINK

OKITA INN

SPLASH

NO.

I'M FINE.

I'M PRETTY USED TO IT NOW.

I'M SORRY, AKITSUKI-KUN. I SHOULDN'T HAVE CALLED YOU OUT HERE. YOU MUST BE TIRED AFTER THAT LONG PRACTICE.

RE-ALLY?

YEAH.

I JUST...

...REALLY WANTED TO BE ALONE WITH YOU.

...HONOKA-CHAN.

AH...

THE MOON LOOKS SO PRETTY.

Y-YEAH.

UH, UM...

AKITSUKI-KUN...

YEAH?

EVER SINCE...

...THE FIRST TIME I MET YOU AT THE SHRINE...

...I'VE HAD MY EYE ON YOU. EVERY YEAR SINCE THEN, I WATCHED YOU WHENEVER YOU CAME TO THE SHRINE.

SINCE WE'RE GOING OUT NOW...

I'M...

...JUST GONNA COME RIGHT OUT AND SAY IT.

THAT'S WHY I WAS SO SHOCKED WHEN I FOUND OUT THAT YOU WERE TAKING OUR HIGH SCHOOL EN-TRANCE EXAM.

I WAS LIKE... I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S HERE!

HUH?

I ALWAYS WISHED THAT SOMEDAY, I'D GET TO BE ALONE WITH YOU LIKE THIS.

THAT'S WHY I TRIED TO TALK TO YOU THAT FIRST DAY.

日：えっ 一緒に 行ってみない

うん

秋月くん だっちゃった じゃあね！

同じ クラス だったんだね

ｶﾌｶﾌ

あの……

AND I WAS SO HAPPY WHEN I FOUND OUT THAT WE WERE IN THE SAME CLASS.

同じ中学だった アイツから

ただいま

本当!?

WELL... MAYBE A LITTLE.

YOU MUST'VE THOUGHT I WAS REALLY WEIRD.

パシャッ

SPLASH

……！

うる…

DRIP

REALLY?

THE ONLY REASON I JOINED THE TRACK TEAM WAS BECAUSE YOU WERE ON IT, AKITSUKI-KUN.

BUT I DON'T THINK THAT NOW!

B-BE—

BE-
CAUSE...

YEAH,
I JUST
WANTED
A CHANCE
TO GET
CLOSER
TO YOU.

I LOVE
YOU...

BLUSH

HONOKA-CHAN.

I HOPE THIS LASTS FOREVER.

I DO, TOO.

.....

YEAH.

WE SHOULD GO BACK.

IT'S COOL-ING OFF, AND I DON'T WANT YOU TO CATCH COLD, AKITSUKI-KUN.

I'M SO HAPPY.

I HOPE THIS LASTS...

ARE YOU SAYING I'VE OVERSTAYED MY WELCOME?

CRUNCH

CRUNCH

...FOREVER.

HUH?

YAMATO SHOULDN'T BE THE ONLY ONE WHO GETS TO HAVE FUN. I'M GONNA FIND ME A GIRL, TOO.

A HOTTIE.

GOOD MORN-ING.

WELL, NO, BUT...

I MEAN, YOU'RE NOT EVEN ON THE TRACK TEAM.

SCHTICK

SEEMS LIKE HE AND SAKURAI ARE GETTING ALONG PRETTY WELL.

SO WHAT?

HOW LONG DO YOU THINK I'VE KNOWN THE GUY?

Y-YOU MEAN, YOU KNOW?

I MEAN, IT'S TOTALLY FUCKED UP!

ALL THIS TIME HE'S BEEN SAYING HE'S IN LOVE WITH SUZUKA, AND THEN SUD-DENLY HE JUST CHANGES HIS MIND.

THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP HIM?

HUH?

PEOPLE CHANGE THEIR MINDS ALL THE TIME.

SO WHAT?

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S WRONG?

IT IS! IT'S TOTALLY WRONG.

DON'T CHANGE THE SUB-JECT!

I MEAN, YOU FELL IN LOVE WITH YAMATO JUST BE-CAUSE HE WAS FAST.

HUH?

SAKURAI'S BEEN IN LOVE WITH YAMATO FOR A LONG TIME.

...TRYING TO BREAK THEM UP.

I'D SAY THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOU...

I'M NOT–

I–

THAT'S WEIRD.

I'M SERIOUS, SENPAI. THERE'S NOT ENOUGH FOR ME.

GRUMBLE

I'M NOT EVEN A MEMBER, AND YET THEY FEED ME!

GOD, I LOVE THE TRACK TEAM.

CLINK

THERE'S NO RIGHT OR WRONG IN LOVE.

SO MAYBE YOU SHOULD JUST SHUT UP, AND MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS.

HEY, WAIT!

.....

WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS TO DO EXTRA TRAINING?

PHEW! I FINALLY FINISHED.

I'LL JUST STRETCH A LITTLE, AND HEAD BACK.

THE CAPTAIN'S ALWAYS PICKING ON ME.

AH... ASAHINA...

HEY!

UH... YEAH.

YOUR FORM IS ALL OFF AGAIN.

YOU'LL NEVER BREAK A RECORD WITH FORM LIKE THAT!

GET YOUR SHIT TOGETHER.

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT?

HEY!

FWIP !!!

.....

OKAY, I HEARD YOU THE FIRST TIME.

NOW WHAT?

ARE YOU REALLY GOING OUT WITH...

...HONOKA-CHAN?

HUH?

UH... UM..

WELL...

YEAH....

WE'RE GOING OUT.

OH.

. . . . . .

YEP.

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

HUH?

GOOD FOR YOU.

I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D FIND A GIRLFRIEND, YAMATO-KUN.

ASAHINA...

I DON'T KNOW HOW SHE FOUND OUT THAT WE WERE GOING OUT, BUT...

SIT DOWN. YOU HAVEN'T DONE YOUR STRETCHES YET, HAVE YOU?

UH... NO...

CHATTER

CHATTER

I WAS PRETTY SURPRISED.

EVEN THOUGH SHE KNEW, SHE STILL ACTED LIKE THE SAME, OLD ASAHINA.
GOD, YOU'RE SO STIFF, YAMATO-KUN.
NOTH-ING HAD CHANGED.
SHUT UP.
SHE WAS HER USUAL SELF.

FIVE YEARS AGO.
I'M GONNA WORK MY ASS OFF SO THAT SOMEDAY, MTA-SAN WILL BE MY CHIEF EDITOR.
I WAS FULL OF PASSION AFTER GETTING MY FIRST SERIES.
THAT'S MY GOAL.

## SUZUKA FOUR-PANEL THEATER NUMBER TWENTY-TWO

## GOALS

YEAH.

ARE YOU STILL AWAKE, SUZUKA?

YEAH.

I KNOW.

YOU'D BETTER GET SOME SLEEP. WE HAVE TO GO BACK TO TOKYO TO-MORROW.

I GUESS THIS TRIP...

...IS FI-NALLY OVER.

# SUZUKA

## #38 LIGHTNING

I-I'LL FIND IT!

SHIMA

MAP

HAVE WE BEEN GOING AROUND IN CIRCLES?

HEY, AKITSUKI! WHERE'S THIS GREAT OKONOMIYAKI PLACE YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT?

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT OKONOMIYAKI?

JUST PICK ANOTHER PLACE.

I'M SURE THEY'RE ALL THE SAME ANYWAY.

.....

DON'T LISTEN TO THEM, AKITSUKI-KUN. JUST TAKE YOUR TIME.

HIROSHIMA MAP

EVERY RESTAU-RANT HAS THEIR OWN PARTICULAR FLAVOR AND STYLE.

HIROSHIMA MAP

BEST 100 OKONOMIYAKI SHOPS

WHY THE HELL DO YOU EVEN NEED A GUIDE BOOK?

AREN'T YOU FROM HIROSHIMA?

I'M STARVING, YAMATO!

DON'T TRY TO PUT THE BLAME ON ME!

CHATTER

CHATTER

AND THEN YOU TELL ME TO TAKE YOU TO THE BEST OKONOMI-YAKI PLACE IN TOWN?

THE ONLY REA-SON WE'RE IN SUCH A HURRY IS THAT YOU MADE US PRACTICE SO LATE, EVEN THOUGH IT'S OUR LAST DAY HERE.

ZZZ

す……！

ZZZ

す……！

I'M STARVING.

HEY, SUZUKA. WAKE UP!

I TOLD YOU TO GO TO SLEEP EARLY LAST NIGHT.

MMM...

……

BONK

コテ

MMM...

...OKO-NOMI-YAKI.

I WANNA EAT SOME...

WE COME ALL THE WAY OUT TO HIROSHIMA, AND YOU TAKE US TO A RAMEN JOINT?

AHH... I CAN'T BE-LIEVE THIS.

SERI-OUSLY.

THHP

THHP

THAT'S CAUSE YOU SPENT TOO MUCH TIME SCREWING AROUND.

WH-WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO? ALL OF THE OKONOMIYAKI PLACES WERE TOO PACKED. THERE WAS NO WAY WE COULD GET IN.

HUH?

OH YEAH... I BOUGHT THIS FOR YOU.

HERE!

THANKS.

I THOUGHT THAT PLACE WAS REALLY GOOD, AKITSUKI-KUN.

YEAH.

A CELL PHONE STRAP?

I'VE GOT THE SAME ONE.

LOOK.

THANKS.

O-OH YEAH.

...AND YOU HAVE TO GO AND RUB IT IN.

...SHIT. I STRIKE OUT TRYING TO PICK UP CHICKS...

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TWO DOING?

?

AH... COMING!

HEY, HASHIBA! ASAHINA! THE BULLET TRAIN IS HERE!

N-NOTH-ING.

16
LAST TRAIN 9 7:35 TOKYO
OUT OF SERVICE 711
MMM....
COME ON, SUZUKA. LET'S GO.
WHERE'RE YOU GOING, SUZUKA?
カチッ CLACK
IS EVERY-BODY HERE? DID ANYBODY MISS THE TRAIN?
TO THE BATH-ROOM.
I'M HERE!
I'M SO TIRED.
HE'S ALWAYS WANDER-ING OFF ON HIS OWN.
HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO GO BUY A SODA, SO I GUESS HE'S OUT ON THE PLATFORM.
スッ SQUEAK
HUH? WHERE'S AKITSUKI?
WE'RE FINALLY HEAD-ING HOME.

POOR GUYS LIKE ME HAVE TO SAVE EVERY PENNY THEY CAN.

CLOP

CLOP

THEY CHARGE WAY MORE FOR DRINKS ON THE TRAIN.

CLOP

LOOKS LIKE I'M THE LAST PERSON TO BOARD.

CLOP

I'M SUCH A GREAT GUY!

IT SURE WAS NICE OF ME TO BUY ENOUGH FOR EVERY-BODY.

TAPPA

TAPPA

YAMATO-KUN.

ASAHINA.

ガラ
PLUNK
WHA-?
ガラ
PLUNK
!
ガラ
PLUNK
AH...
ポーロッ
PLUP
OH SHIT!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?
HURRY!
IF WE MISS IT, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET BACK...
HURRY UP! THE TRAIN IS ABOUT TO LEAVE!
S-SOR-RY!
528-TWHOOSH
BEEP
HIROSHI
BEEP

ナデナデ

PUFWISH

WHAT'S TAKING SUZUKA SO LONG? DID SHE FALL ASLEEP ON THE TOILET?

ナデ

SLIDE

THEY DIDN'T GET ON?

HUH? WHAT THE HELL ARE THOSE TWO DOING?

CLACK
ゴトン
CLICK
ゴトン
I SAID STOP!
ゴトン
CLACK
ゴトン
CLICK
WAIT FOR US!
CLACK
ゴトン
STOP THE TRAIN!
OH...
SHIT...
ア・・・
BOOP

WHAT?

AKITSUKI AND ASAHINA AREN'T ON BOARD?

NO, THEY MISSED THE TRAIN.

WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH THOSE TWO?

CALL THEM! CALL ASAHINA ON HER CELL!

O-OKAY!

10

FIELDER

AKIT-SUKI-KUN AND...

...ASA-HINA-SAN?

.....

ドキン

THUMP

AKITSUKI-KUN...

THUMP

ドキン

PLEASE...

ANSWER...

AKITSUKI-KUN

F900i

ｹﾀ

CLICK

RING

ﾌﾙﾙﾙ

RING

ﾌﾙﾙﾙ

ぐ――……

ZZZ

RING

ﾌﾙﾙﾙﾙﾙ…

RING

ﾌﾙﾙﾙﾙﾙ…

RING

ﾌﾙﾙﾙ!

AH.

RING RING

NOW WHAT DO WE DO?

THAT WAS THE LAST TRAIN!

DON'T ASK ME!

WHERE ARE YOU, ASAHINA?

MI-MIKI?

CLACK

WE'LL TRY TO THINK OF A WAY TO GET YOU HOME.

YOU GUYS SHOULD GO TALK TO SOME-ONE AT THE TICKET OFFICE.

CLACK

CAPTAIN? UM... WE'RE STILL ON THE PLATFORM...

YEAH... YAMATO-KUN AND I BOTH MISSED IT.

HE SAID HE'D TRY TO FIND A WAY TO GET US HOME TODAY.

CLICK

WHAT DID THE CAPTAIN SAY? IS HE MAD?

JR 広島 ひろしま Hiroshima

EAST HIROSHIMA

SHINI

LET'S GO ASK THE STATION ATTENDANT.

IT'S ONLY 7:30, SO WE MIGHT STILL HAVE A CHANCE.

Y-YEAH, WE MISSED OUR TRAIN.

TO TOKYO?

O-OKAY!

WELL, THERE AREN'T ANY MORE TOKYO-BOUND TRAINS TODAY.

THAT WAS THE LAST ONE.

BUT WE REALLY HAVE TO GET HOME. ISN'T THERE ANY OTHER WAY?

THOSE ONLY GO AS FAR AS OKAYAMA.

WELL, WHAT ABOUT A REGULAR LOCAL TRAIN?

I THINK THERE'S A NIGHT BUS THAT GOES TO TOKYO. YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO MAKE THAT ONE.

WELL, YOU COULD GO ASK OVER AT THE BUS CENTER.

WE'LL CHECK IT OUT!

O-OKAY ...

FWOOSH

THANK YOU!

YEAH!

OH YEAH! WE COULD TAKE A BUS HOME.

HIROSHIMA BUS CE

AT THIS TIME OF YEAR, YOU NEED RESERVATIONS IN ADVANCE. EVERYTHING IS FULL.

SORRY, BUT...

F-FULL?

.....

HUH?

ALL THOSE PEOPLE OVER THERE ARE ALREADY AHEAD OF YOU ON THE LIST.

SURE, I CAN, BUT...

W-WELL... CAN YOU PUT US ON THE STANDBY LIST?

CHATTER

9

CHATTER

7

YOU CAN WAIT HERE IF YOU WANT, BUT I DON'T THINK YOU'LL MAKE IT ON ANYTHING TODAY.

UH-HUH.

CLICK

CLACK

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THEY TOLD US.

I'M GONNA CALL THE TEACHER, AND THEN GET BACK TO YOU.

CLICK

CLACK

OKAY.

BYE.

WHAT'D HE SAY?

DON'T GO ANY-WHERE.

HE SAID

OH.

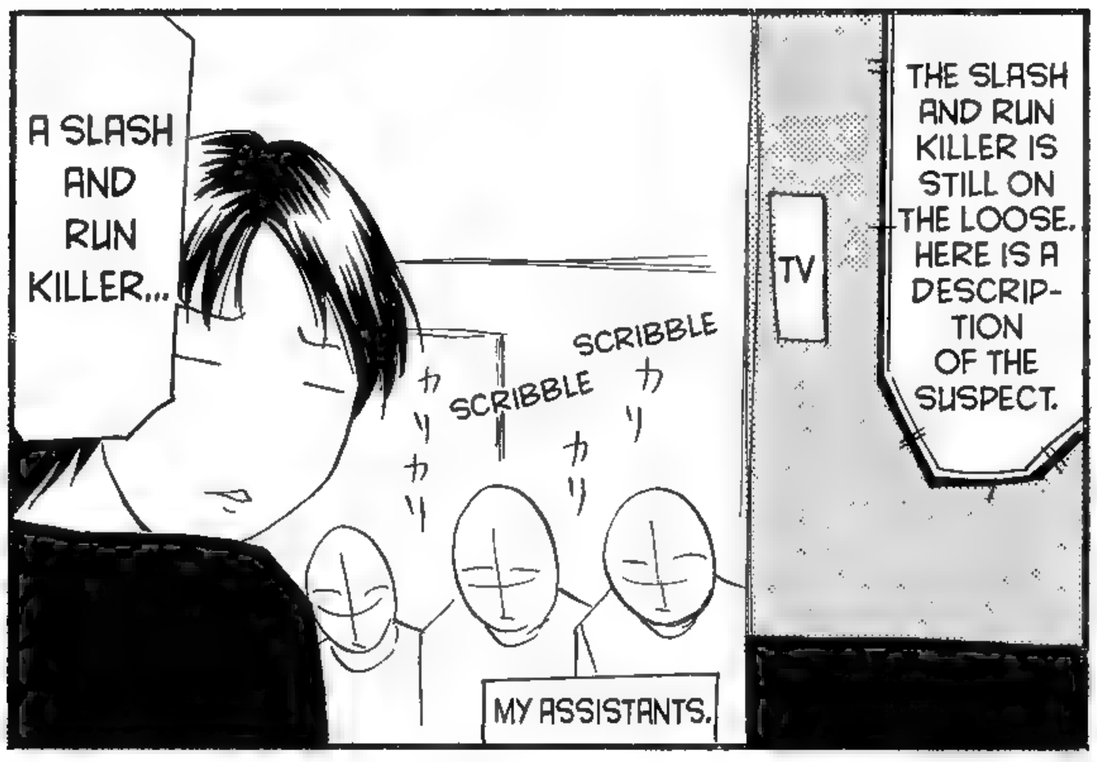
WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO NOW?

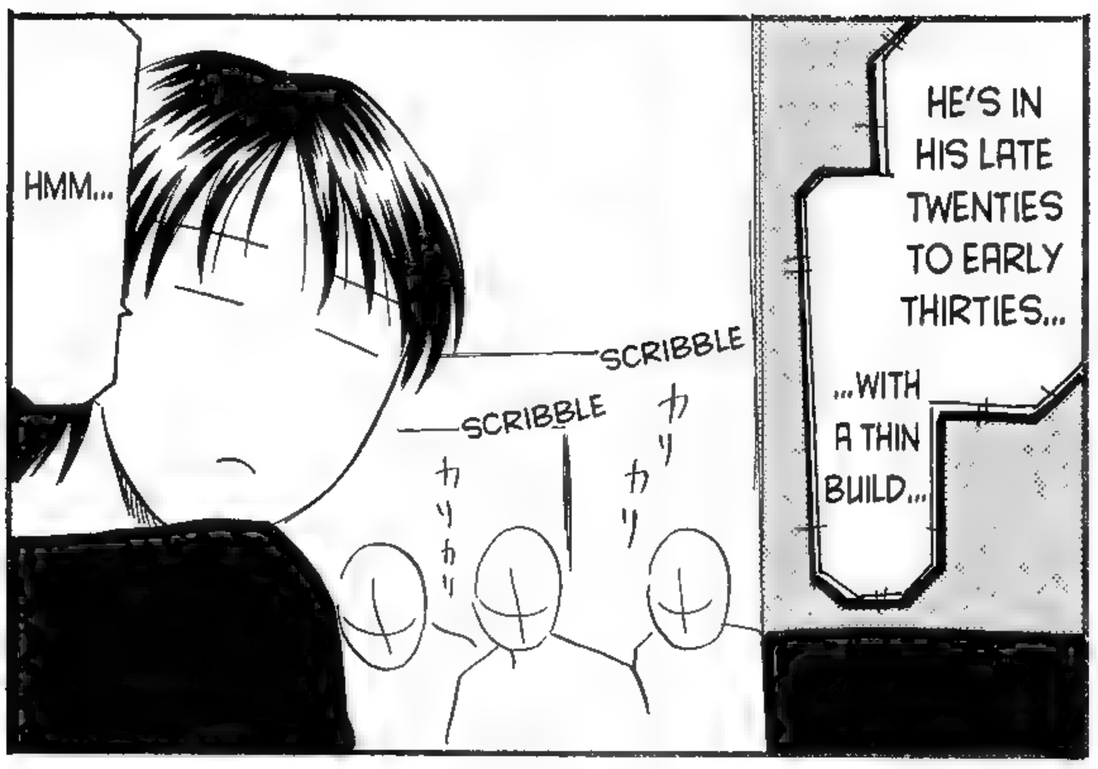
. . . . . .

YEAH...

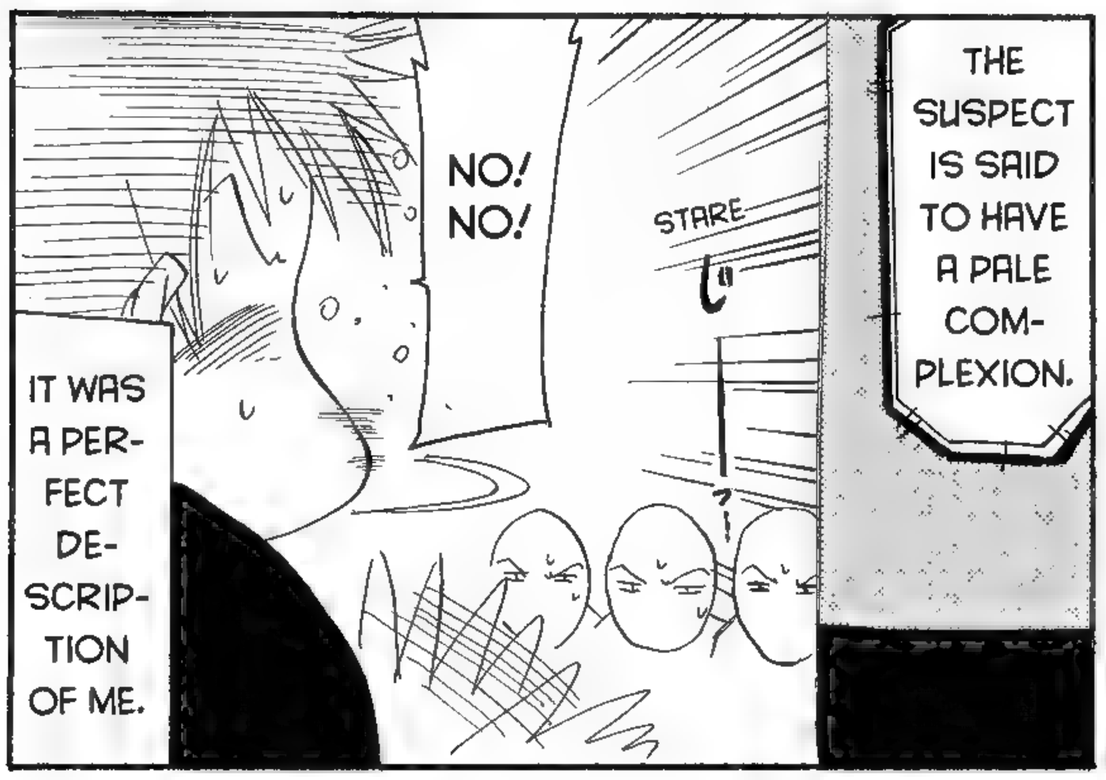
. . . . . .

WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?




## SUZUKA
## FOUR-PANEL THEATER
## NUMBER TWENTY-THREE
# CRIMINAL TRAITS



# SUZUKA

## #39 TWO

TSSS

THIS IS ALL MY FAULT.

SORRY.

. . .

TSSS

UH...

YOU'RE DAMN RIGHT IT IS!

WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO ABOUT IT?

WE CAN JUST KILL TIME UNTIL MORNING, AND TAKE THE FIRST BULLET TRAIN HOME.

HUH?

FWUP

HEY, I KNOW!

LET'S GO DO KARAOKE OR GO HANG OUT IN AN ALL-NIGHT DINER.

I'LL PAY YOU BACK AS SOON AS WE GET TO TOKYO.

OKAY?

SO, CAN YOU LEND ME A LITTLE MONEY?

BUT...I ONLY HAVE 600 YEN*.

WHAT?

HOW CAN YOU EVEN ASK ME THAT? JUST USE YOUR OWN MONEY, YAMATO-KUN.

*$6

YEAH, AND I WAS GONNA BORROW MONEY FOR THE TICKET FROM YOU.

BUT YOU WERE GONNA TRY TO BUY A BUS TICKET HOME.

WHY WOULD I HAVE ANY MONEY ON ME? I JUMPED OUT OF THE TRAIN AT THE LAST MINUTE.

OH YEAH...

TSSS

CARP!
CARP!
HIROSHIMA
CARP!

HUH?

.....

YOU
CHEATED
ON HER,
DIDN'T YOU,
BUDDY?

PAT
PAT
PAT

WHAT'S
WRONG,
BUDDY?
HAVE A
FIGHT
WITH YOUR
GIRL-
FRIEND?

HUH?

ALL MEN
CHEAT, SO
JUST GET
OVER IT!

FORGIVE
THE GUY!

N-NO, NOT
EXACTLY.

WAH! YOU STINK LIKE BOOZE, PAL!

PYUUU

YOU LOVE HER THE MOST, DON'T YOU, BUDDY?

DON'T YOU?

DON'T HIT IT TOO HARD, OR YOU'LL HURT YOURSELF, OKAY, BUDDY?

HEY, BOSS! WHAT'RE YOU DOING TALKING TO THOSE LITTLE BRATS?

THERE'S A LOVE HOTEL OVER THERE.

WHY DON'T YOU GO BANG ONE OUT, AND MAKE UP?

.....

YEAH, RIGHT.... WE DON'T EVEN HAVE THE MONEY TO GO TO A LOVE HOTEL.

RIGHT?

WHA—?

YOU'D BETTER SHUT UP, MAN!

AH...NO! I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT!

I SWEAR!

EVEN IF WE DID, I WOULDN'T GO.

AH!

UH... UM...

HUH?

I KNOW! I'LL TRY CALLING HOME!

I'LL CALL MY DAD, AND BORROW SOME MONEY FROM HIM.

G- GOTTA CHANGE THE SUB- JECT!

I'LL JUST GO STAY AT MY FOLK'S PLACE.

AND THEN YOU CAN STAY AT A BUSINESS HOTEL, AND GO BACK TOMORROW MORNING.

NO, I THINK HE HAS THE DAY OFF TOMORROW ANYWAY.

THAT'D BE NICE, BUT WON'T HE BE MAD...

...IF YOU IMPOSE ON HIM LIKE THAT?

WH-WHY?

WHOOSH

I'LL JUST GO OVER THERE, AND CALL HIM.

CAN I BORROW YOUR CELL?

WHY? WHO CARES?

I DO! BYE!

CAUSE, I DON'T WANT YOU TO HEAR ME SPEAK HIRO-SHIMA DIALECT.

SURE.

.....

.....!

.....

OKAY.

HE'S ON HIS WAY OVER NOW!

AH, MIKI? CAN YOU PUT THE CAPTAIN ON?

.....

I'LL CALL THE CAPTAIN AND TELL HIM!

HE'S PROBABLY WORRIED SICK.

TSSS

YEAH.

YEAH.

UH-HUH, THAT'S RIGHT.

YAMATO-KUN'S DAD IS ON HIS WAY OVER.

HUH?

.....

.....?

H-
HELLO?

OH GREAT.... HERE COMES THE LECTURE.

HERE.

AKITSUKI-KUN?

.....!

HUH? HE WANTS TO TALK TO ME?

MY DAD'S COMING.

OH, YEAH, BUT WE'RE FINE.

HO-HONOKA-CHAN?

CLICK

UM... I HEARD YOU TWO MISSED THE TRAIN, AND I WAS SO WORRIED.

ゴトン

CLACK

UM...

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.

DON'T WORRY.

HUH?

UM...

I'M GOING HOME BY MYSELF, SO...

YOU'VE GOT...

...NOTH-ING TO WORRY ABOUT.

. . . . . .

OKAY.

THANKS.

I'LL CALL YOU WHEN I GET HOME.

OKAY ...

BYE.

CLICK

AH!

THANKS.

SURE.

TSSSS

...WHO ASKED HER TO GO WITH YOU?

SO... WERE YOU THE ONE...

HEY.

HUH?

HUH?

YEAH.

IT WAS ME.

UH...

TSSS

OH.

SO YOU'RE IN LOVE...

...WITH HONOKA-CHAN?

I THINK SHE'S CUTE, AND...

SHE'S REALLY NICE AND CONSIDER-ATE.

UH...

HMM ...

WELL...UM...

BUT THOSE AREN'T THE ONLY REA-SONS.

WHEN I'M WITH HER, I JUST FEEL REALLY RELAXED.

WHAT THE HELL?

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ASKED!

HUH?

THAT'S ENOUGH!

WHA-?

BLUSH

I DON'T NEED ALL THE DETAILS.

WHAT THE HELL IS YOUR PROBLEM? YOU'RE FUCKING CRAZY!

STEP

KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN! YOU'RE EMBAR-RASSING ME.

GOD, HOW STUPID ARE YOU?

ASAHINA DIDN'T SAY A SINGLE WORD AFTER THAT.

...IN AWKWARD SILENCE, WAITING FOR MY DAD TO COME.

WE SAT THERE FOR AN HOUR AND A HALF...

HUH?

AH... THAT'S HIM.

SCREECH

STEP

YOU'RE LATE, DAD—

?

SMACK

HUH?

I-I'M TERRIBLY SORRY FOR ALL THE TROUBLE.

YOU IDIOT! YOU MISSED THE TRAIN TO BUY SODA?

THAT'S OKAY. IT WAS ALL YAMATO'S FAULT.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. NOW HOP IN!

WAH!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN HOP IN? SHE CAN WALK TO A HOTEL FROM HERE.

WHAT?

YOU CAN STAY AT OUR PLACE TONIGHT, AND I'LL GIVE YOU A LIFT BACK HERE TOMORROW.

DON'T BE STUPID!

WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE A YOUNG GIRL ALONE OUT HERE AT THIS HOUR.

HUH?

DO YOU MIND SITTING IN THE BACK? IT'S A LITTLE MESSY, BUT...

HEY!

DAD!

LISTEN TO ME!

ガチャ CLICK

WH-WHAT?

YOU CAN'T DO THAT...

NOW GET IN THE GOD DAMN CAR, OR YOU'LL BE SLEEP-ING HERE TONIGHT!

SLAM

AH..

YEAH, YEAH, JUST SHUT UP, WILL YA?

BUT...

B—

ASAHINA...

...SLEEPING AT MY HOUSE?

CHIRP

CHIRP

AHH...I'M SO TIRED.

CHIRP

I HAD TO DRIVE FOR THREE HOURS LAST NIGHT THANKS TO YAMATO.

# AKITSUKI

I'M REALLY SORRY.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SORRY, SUZUKA-CHAN.

RIGHT, HONEY?

YOU NEED TO EAT MORE, YAMATO. LOOK HOW THIN YOU'VE GOTTEN.

PUT THAT CIGA-RETTE OUT.

AH... SORRY.

WHA—

SLURP

ズズッ…

WHAT THE HELL IS HAPPENING?

HELP YOUR-SELF, SUZUKA-CHAN.

AH, THANK YOU.

ANOTHER HELPING, YAMATO?

LEAVE HIM BE.

HE SAID HE DOESN'T WANT ANY.

WANT A BONE, MIIKO?

THOSE ARE MY CHOP-STICKS, DAD.

# SUZUKA

## #40 HOME

YOUR FATHER'S RIGHT, YAMATO.

YOU SHOULD'VE JUST GONE TO SCHOOL IN HIROSHIMA.

MOM (HOUSEWIFE/ PART-TIME WORKER) KOTONO AKITSUKI

YOU'RE ALWAYS SCREW-ING AROUND, YAMATO.

THAT'S WHY YOU MISSED THE TRAIN!

FATHER (SELF-EMPLOYED) YOSHIO AKITSUKI

IT'S NICE JUST TO HAVE HIM BACK HOME.

GRANDMOTHER HATSUKO AKITSUKI

GIVE HIM A BREAK, KOTONO-SAN.

YEP, THIS IS IT...

THE LIFE I HAD FOR SIXTEEN LONG YEARS.

YUP.

YOU MIGHT LIVE IN TOKYO, BUT YOU STILL LOOK LIKE A LOSER, YAMATO.

LITTLE BROTHER (FIFTH GRADE) HIRAKAZU AKITSUKI

LITTLE SISTER (EIGHTH GRADE) RIE AKITSUKI

...ALL THE MORE WEIRD...

THAT'S WHY IT MAKES IT SEEM...

.....

...THAT ASAHINA IS HERE.

DON'T MAKE HER EAT THAT CRAP!

I'LL TRY SOME.

HAVE SOME SEA CUCUMBER, SUZUKA-CHAN. IT'S DELICIOUS.

I'M BUSY UNTIL THIS AFTER-NOON, SO...

WE'LL LEAVE AROUND FOUR, AND IF THERE'S NOT TOO MUCH TRAFFIC, WE SHOULD MAKE IT BY SIX-THIRTY.

WHAT TIME ARE YOU GONNA TAKE US TO THE STATION?

IT'S A LONG DRIVE, SO WE SHOULD PROBABLY LEAVE SOON.

I WOULDN'T MIND, BUT ASAHINA CAN'T.

7
14
21
28

YOU'RE ALREADY GOING HOME, YAMATO?

BUT YOU JUST GOT HERE. WHY DON'T YOU STAY A WHILE?

RIGHT, MIIKO?

YEAH, HE'S THE ONE WHO DROPPED THE SODA.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IT WAS ALL YAMATO'S FAULT.

SHUT UP, YOU TWO.

I'M SORRY...

YOU GUYS WILL JUST HAVE TO KILL SOME TIME.

ガラ SLIDE ガラ

WELL, I'VE GOTTA BE GOING.

.....

OKAY.

...TO CAUSE YOU SO MUCH TROUBLE.

#11

CREAK

I CAN'T JUST IGNORE HER ALL DAY.

THIS IS REALLY AWK-WARD, BUT...

H-HEY...

YAM-ATO-KUN.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

HEY, ASAHINA. WANT ME TO SHOW YOU AROUND A LITTLE?

.....

BUT WE'VE GOT A FEW HOURS BEFORE IT'S TIME TO GO.

GRR

THAT'S OKAY.

JUST LEAVE ME ALONE.

HUH?

WE COULD TAKE THE DOG OUT FOR A WALK, AND—

RIE-CHAN LET ME BORROW SOME CLOTHES.

AND SHE BOUGHT ME SOME UNDER-WEAR.

WHEN WE GET BACK, I'LL HAVE TO GET SOME-THING FOR HER.

UM...

BUZZ

BUZZ

BUZZ

BUZZ

UH...

YEAH...

UNLESS YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY, JUST LEAVE ME ALONE.

OKAY.

BUZZ

BUZZ

BUZZ

GEEZ...I TRY TO BE NICE, AND THAT'S WHAT I GET.

PANT
ヘッ
PANT
ヘッ
PANT
ヘッ
PANT

HEY, KORO! I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU SOMETHING. DON'T SHIT WHILE I'M TALKING TO YOU.

ガビーン
SHOCK
WIGGLE 7°
WIGGLE 7°
WIGGLE 7°
.....

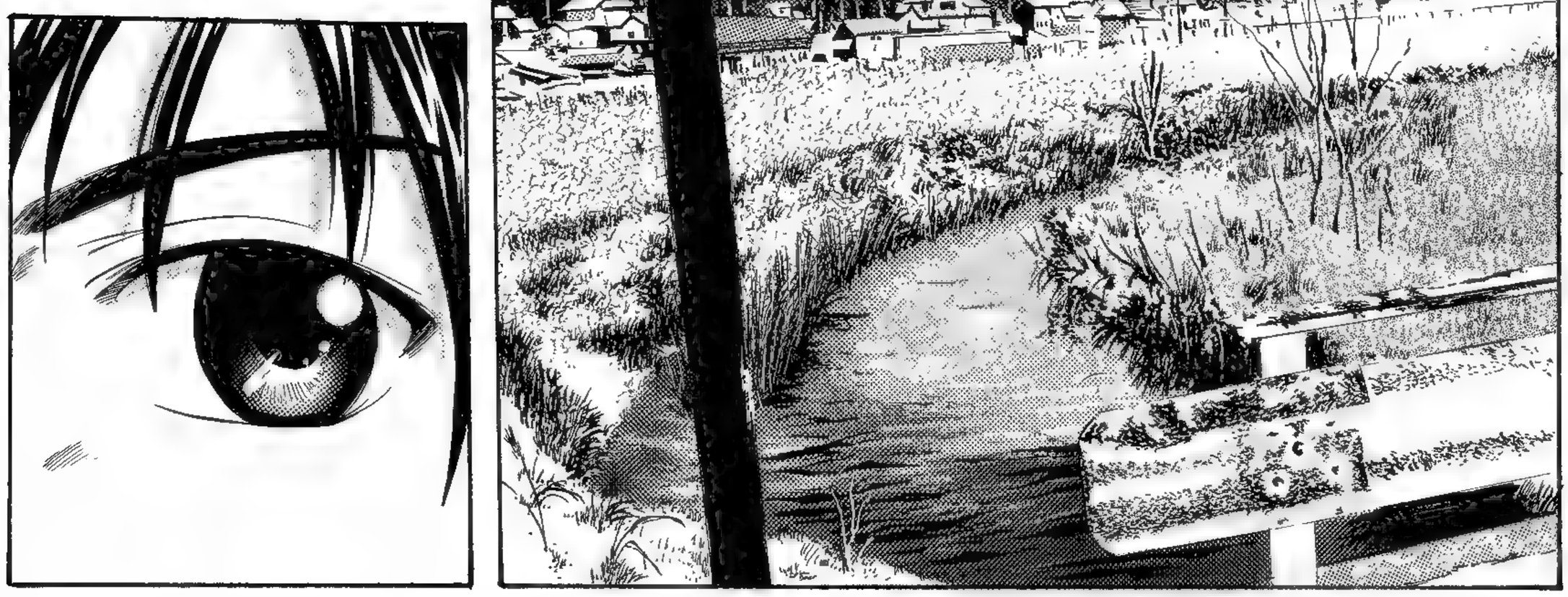
HYUU

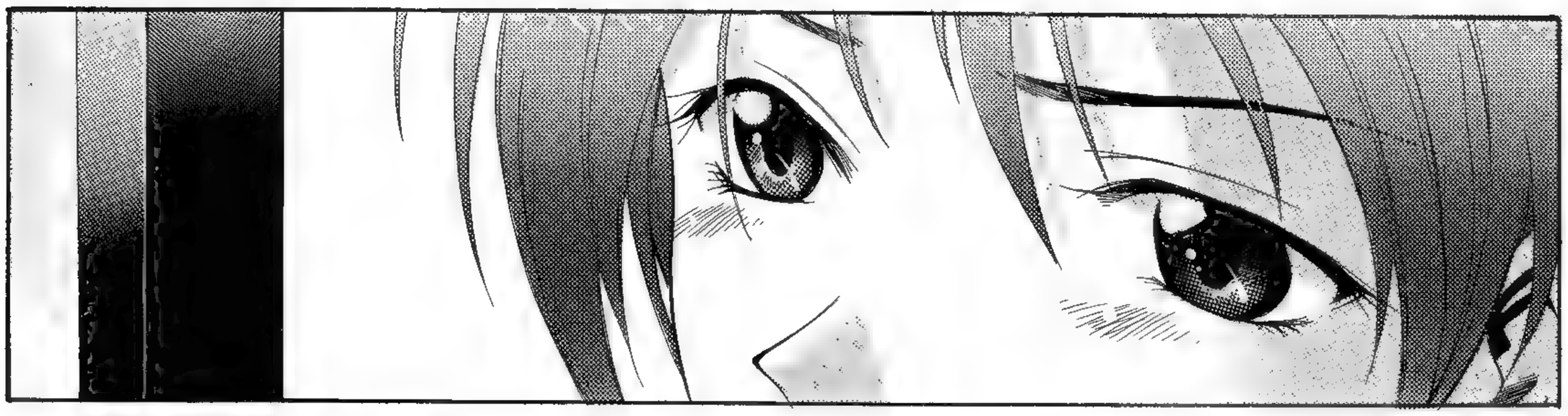
I KNOW IT'S MY FAULT THAT WE ENDED UP HERE, BUT...

I GUESS THIS PLACE IS JUST...

...TOO BORING FOR ASAHINA.

DOES SHE HAVE TO BE SUCH A BITCH ABOUT IT, KORO?





I WAS JUST OVER BY THAT RIVER, AND I SAW TONS OF FISH.
WANNA GO CHECK IT OUT WITH ME?
H-HEY, ASA-HINA.
CREAK
I TOLD YOU TO LEAVE ME ALONE, DIDN'T I?
OKAY ...
AH!

AT NIGHT, THEY FLY AROUND THE RIVER-BANK...

...

ACTUALLY, AT THIS TIME OF YEAR...

...THERE'RE LOTS OF FIREFLIES AROUND THE RIVER.

IF YOU WANT TO SEE THEM, YOU COULD STAY HERE ANOTHER NIGHT, ASAHINA.

S-SO...



I TOLD YOU TO LEAVE ME ALONE!

SHUT UP!

HEY, ARE YOU LIS-TEN-ING?

...

!

WHA-!

SNAP

カチン

HUH?

YEAH, WELL I DON'T GET YOU.

...THEN YOU WANT ME TO STAY ANOTHER NIGHT.

FIRST, YOU WANNA GO FOR A WALK....

WHAT THE HELL IS YOUR PROBLEM? YOU'VE BEEN A NONSTOP BITCH SINCE LAST NIGHT!

I DON'T GET YOU AT ALL!

JUST WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?

!

...SAVING THOSE OFFERS FOR SOMEONE ELSE?

SHOULDN'T YOU BE...

FWEESH

I GET IT...

.....

BUZZ

BUZZ

BUT I'VE BEEN TOTALLY OBLIVIOUS...

ASAHINA IS TRYING TO DO RIGHT BY HONOKA-CHAN.

SWIP

.....

SHE PROBABLY THINKS I'M JUST TRYING TO BE A PLAYER.

.....

...LEAVE ME ALONE.

JUST...

山本美容店

I WENT TO MY PARENT'S PLACE LAST NIGHT.

YEAH.

DID YOU HAVE FUN...

...BACK HOME?

OH...

UM...

WHAT?

YEAH.

ASAHINA... ENDED UP STAYING OVER.

WELL, MY DAD WOULDN'T LISTEN TO ME, AND...

AND...

UH...

I WOULDN'T TRY ANYTHING ANYWAY.

B-BUT WE'RE COMING HOME TODAY, AND...

UH-HUH.

OKAY.

WELL, YEAH...

BUT YOUR WHOLE FAMILY WAS THERE, RIGHT?

HUH?

YEAH, I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.

SO IT'S NO BIG DEAL.

UH...I THOUGHT YOU'D BE MAD.

I'M SERIOUS!
HA, HA!
NO, NOT EVEN!
YEAH..
WE'RE GONNA LEAVE PRETTY SOON.
OKAY, I'LL CALL YOU WHEN I GET HOME.
BYE.
CLICK
ガチャン

HEY!

D.

NORTH

HEY, ASAHINA.

ナ!!

STEP

MY DAD WILL BE HOME SOON, SO WE SHOULD PROBABLY GET READY.

ARE THEY OUT OF THE WASH?

WHAT ABOUT YOUR CLOTHES?

HEY...

ﾌﾆｬ"

ﾌﾆｬ"

PURR

HUH?

WH-WHY?

MAYBE I WILL STAY...

...JUST ONE MORE DAY.

UH...

UM...

...SEE THE FIREFLIES.

I WANT TO...

O... KAY...

シャワ

BUZZ

シャワ

BUZZ

シャワ

CONTINUED IN VOLUME 6

# Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more an art than a science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

## Nakata, page 72

Hidetoshi Nakata is a famous Japanese soccer player who recently shocked the soccer world when he retired at age twenty-nine. He has played for both Japanese and Italian teams.

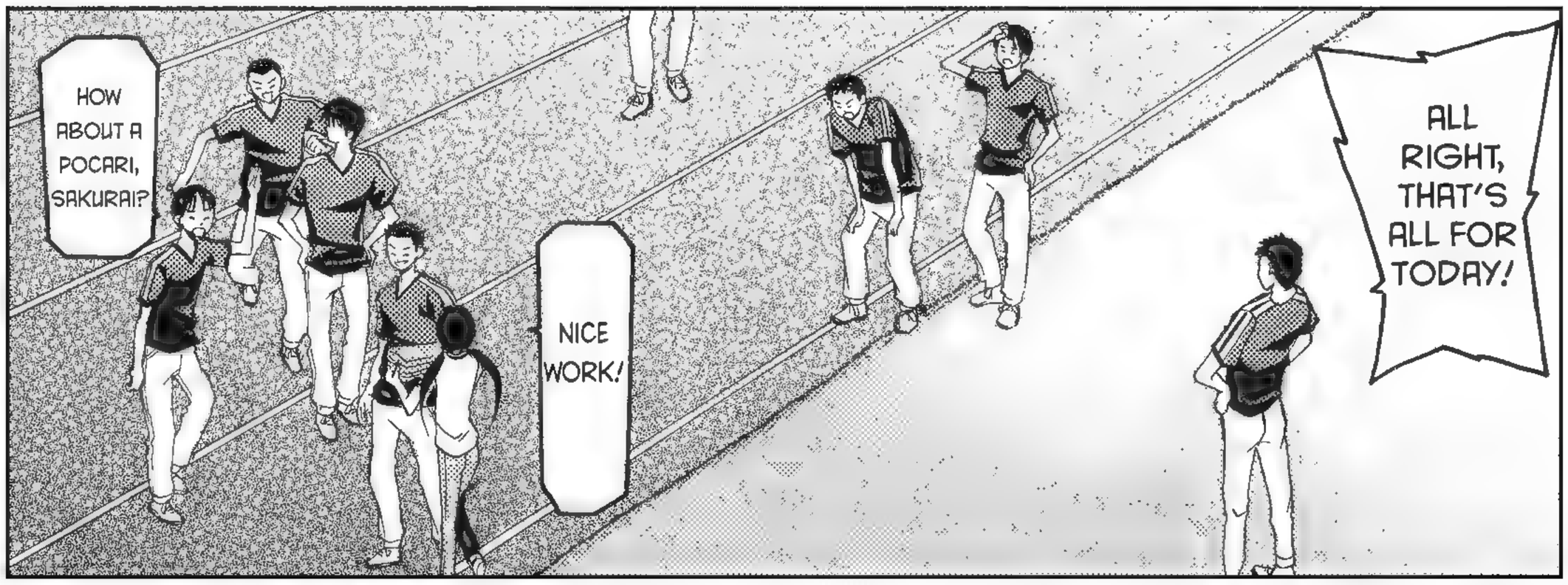
HEY, WILL YOU RECORD THAT SOCCER GAME FOR ME?
THE ONE NAKATA IS PLAYING IN.
SO? HOW'S AUS-TRALIA?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE IN AN-OTHER COUN-TRY!

## An outside bath!, page 99

Japanese inns often have communal baths. The baths are generally separated into male and female sections by a bamboo fence or other structure.

## Pocari, page 115

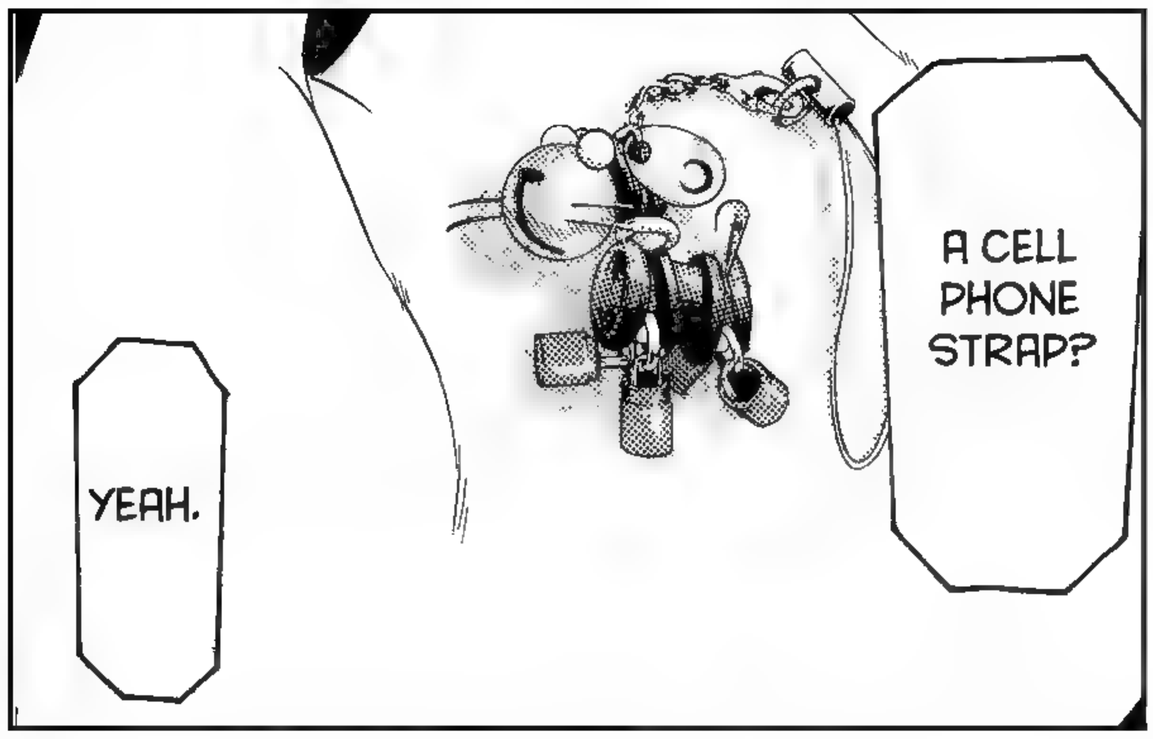
Pocari Sweat is a popular Japanese sports drink.



## *Okonomiyaki*, page 135

Hiroshima is famous for *okonomiyaki*—a Japanese-style pancake. It's made of batter and a mixture of meat, vegetables, and egg. Hiroshima-style *okonomiyaki* generally includes noodles as well.

I-I'LL FIND IT!
HAVE WE BEEN GOING AROUND IN CIRCLES?
HEY, AKITSUKI! WHERE'S THIS GREAT OKONOMIYAKI PLACE YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT?
MAP

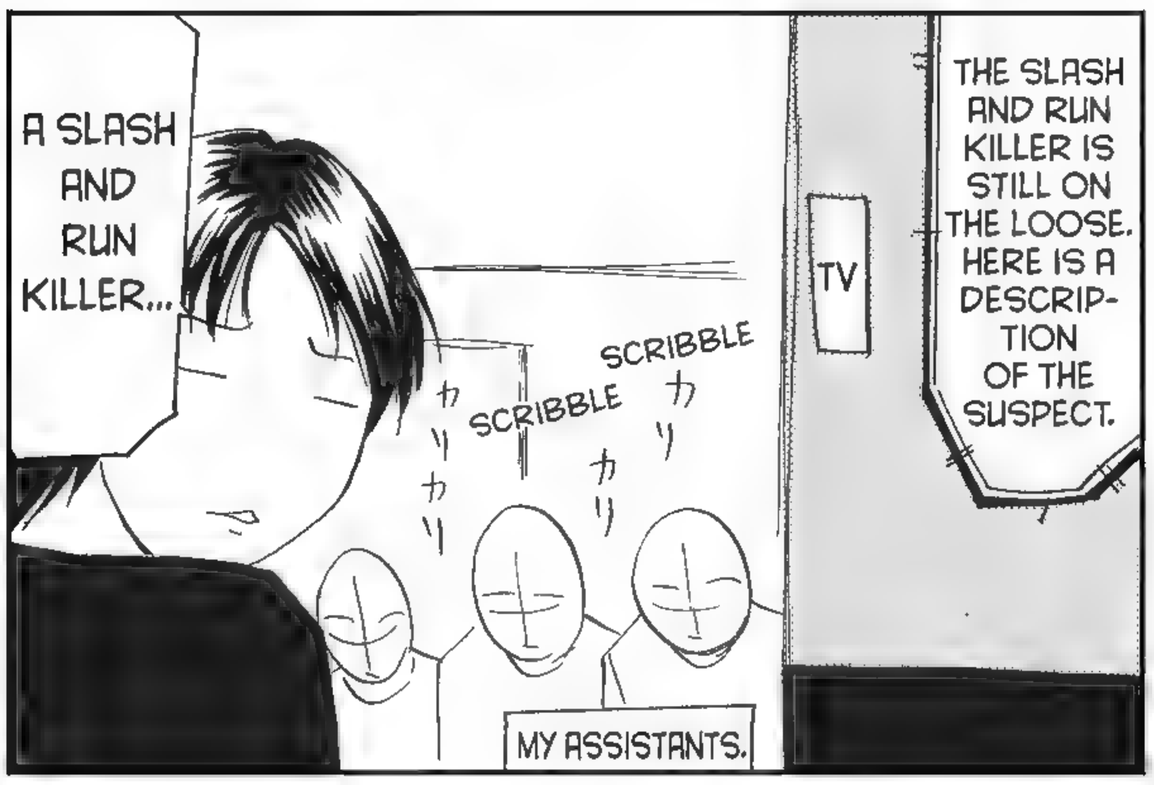



## Cell phone strap, page 137

Cell phone straps are little straps, often with cute characters tied onto them, that people attach to their cell phones.

## Slash and run killer, page 152

Slash and run killings, or *toorima,* are a common crime phenomenon in Japan. In a slash and run, the perpetrator picks out a random target on the street, casually passes by, stabs them, and then flees the scene.


A SLASH AND RUN KILLER...
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
TV
THE SLASH AND RUN KILLER IS STILL ON THE LOOSE. HERE IS A DESCRIPTION OF THE SUSPECT.
MY ASSISTANTS.

## Hiroshima Carp, page 158

The Hiroshima Carp are a baseball team. This inebriated fellow is singing the Carp's theme song.

## Love hotel, page 159

Love hotels are specifically designed for couples seeking privacy. They can be rented by the night or, during the daytime, by the hour.

# Preview of Volume 6

We're pleased to present you with a preview of *Suzuka,* Volume 6.

This volume will be available on November 27, 2007.

HUH?

WHA—?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? STOP MESSING WITH ME!

I'M NOT...

TSSS

...MESSING WITH YOU.

GLOW

ナニ？

WH-?
WHAT?

HUH?

PSYCH! JUST KIDDING.

WHOA!

YOU TURNED BEET RED! YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT.

DID YOU ACTU-ALLY THINK I WAS SERI-OUS?

Y-YOU'RE SUCH A LITTLE—!

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